Our New Police Headquarters

As early as 1926, the limitations of our present building were recognized. On February 11th of that year, the police commission would note that the current accommodations were "already somewhat inadequate" for the handling of prisoners and storage of vehicles. The commission would go on and recommend the purchase of 20 feet of land which was available across the south side of the building.

At that time, about 1,500 people a year were allowed to stay over night in the cell area because they were homeless. Since then, the cell area has changed very little in 78 years other than being enlarged in 1978 by adding a bullpen in the back and a small room for young offenders.

As time went on space became a more precious commodity. Renovations in 1955, 1968 and 1978 have extended the use of this building as a police facility. Another problem over the years was the inaccessibility of headquarters to people with handicaps.

Since the 1950's when it was obvious that there wasn't enough room for both the provincial courts and the police, the possibility of moving to another site has been examined. In 1990 Rebanks Architects conducted a "Space Needs Study". Three options were identified, another addition to the existing building, a new site downtown or a new mid-town site.

The old teachers college near the E.C. Row Expressway was considered, but presented problems, including prisoner transportation to court. It was also determined that another addition would be too costly. It was obvious that headquarters should remain near city hall and the proposed Government Square.

By 1992, the task of finding a new building was assigned to Staff Inspector Bill Stephens and Director of Planning and Research Barry Horrobin. Initially, the site which the city market use to occupy, was identified as being ideal. Headquarters would be incorporated into a multi-use facility together with the market and other commercial tenants.

By this time, the provincial government was going ahead with plans to build a consolidated courthouse situated on the old Steinberg's department store site. An agreement was reached to have a shared cell area under the municipal esplanade which was to be between these two buildings. This would mean a considerable cost savings to both. A committee was then formed to examine possible partnerships for a new headquarters facility. A call for expressions of interest generated 62 proponents including Cambridge Leaseholds and Canderel Stoneridge.

Construction had begun on the below ground levels for the courthouse when the Conservative Government was elected and all capital projects were halted. An

examination of the courthouse facility resulted in 120,000 square feet being cut from the project through the removal of the space allocated for the General Division Courts.

Ms. Linda Carkner, an engineer for the City of Windsor, recognized that the 116,000 square feet needed for police headquarters fit perfectly into the space cut by the province. It was her idea which developed into the partnership between the City of Windsor and the Province of Ontario, and would achieve savings of about nine million dollars. While both facilities are under the same roof there are no public crossovers and two separate entrances with different addresses, 150 Goyeau Street for headquarters and 200 Chatham Street East for the court building.

Overall, the Windsor Justice Facility has 395,000 square feet with headquarters occupying about 47% of the building or about 122,000 square feet. The facility was designed by DuBois Plumb/Carruthers Shaw of Toronto, who specialize in the design of police facilities. The contractor, BFC construction, is also from Toronto and work on the Windsor Justice Facility started on July 31st 1997.

The total cost for police headquarters was approximately $23 million. A further $1,750,000 was allotted for furnishings and equipment. This was the first major expenditure for furniture since 1978 when $100,000 was spent to outfit the most recent addition to headquarters.

Heating and cooling for the entire building is provided by the Windsor Utilities District Energy Plant at Casino Windsor. All employees have an electronic access card which will allow them into certain areas depending on their authorization and need. Once in an area, keys which cannot be duplicated, will be needed for individual rooms with the issuing of keys being strictly controlled.

The entire facility is handicapped accessible with most areas exceeding the requirements of the Ontario Building Code. The main floor features the Traffic Branch and Information Services which are the two services the public visit the most at headquarters. An automated teller machine has been installed in the lobby for public and employee use.

The cell control area has been enlarged to just over 10,000 square feet from the current 2,900. In all, there are 48 individual cells and three bull pens which can accommodate about 90 prisoners. Over 115 surveillance cameras have been installed throughout the building, covering all areas where a person in custody would be lodged. The individual cells have been specially designed with bars on the bottom which allows for improved ventilation. The panic alarm system and enhanced lighting will bring added security and improve the monitoring of prisoners.

Great improvements have been made for identification officers with the installation of a Level 3 Biohazard laboratory and equipment. This will allow for the safe

examination of hazardous materials such as blood infected with the AIDS virus or Hepatitis. A separate ventilation system will remove air-born contaminants to prevent them from spreading to other parts of the building. A vehicle examination bay is located on the first below ground level and will allow identification officers to examine vehicles, up to the size of a city bus, in a controlled environment.

The comfort of victims is a prime concern, especially for children and victims of serious crimes such as sexual assaults. To help people in their time of crisis, a "soft" interview room is located on the third floor. This room is outfitted with normal household furniture and fixtures and has its own bathroom. All of the interview rooms are equipped to be monitored by video, if necessary.

The communications centre has been greatly enlarged and has multi-dimensional lighting as well as a central vacuum unit for the static resistant carpet. As with many areas, the communications centre has additional room to accommodate future needs. When more space is needed, the west side of the building has been designed so that an addition can be easily added.

A True Community Project

The rebuilding of General Brock School has turned into a unique and true community project in keeping with the goals of the Windsor Police Service. Much thought, innovation and co-operation has resulted in four different community services, an elementary school, a public library, a day care centre and a police facility, being integrated under one roof.

The officers of the Sandwich Towne Community Patrol are leaving behind a historic house which is over 100 years old. In their new facility, the 26 officers have 2,500 square feet which is just over three times the usable space they once had. This new office is totally handicapped accessible and alarmed when the officers are out on patrol. A computer link will allow officers to access the same information available at the other two police facilities. In addition, they will now have a separate and secure room for equipment and police radios.

Construction started in June of 1998 with the police moving in during the second week of November 1999, just one week before the move into headquarters. The total cost for this new station is $330,000, which includes furniture. Even before it was opened, inquiries have been received from police agencies as far away as British Columbia, Oregon, Colorado and Arizona. This has been a ground breaking project with nothing similar for comparison. These facilities are the most recent chapters in a long and interesting history.

A Modest Beginning

Windsor became a village in 1854 which had 300 inhabitants and the boundaries extended about from present-day Crawford Avenue to just east of Ouellette Avenue, and from the Detroit River to Assumption Street. Windsor's river front location, which also marked the end of a rail line, fostered the village's growth. It was incorporated as a town in 1857 and by 1860. It exceeded Amherstburg in size to become the area's largest community with a population of 2,360.

The nearby Town of Sandwich was established in 1858, followed in 1861 by Sandwich Township. During this era, Hiram Walker's distillery began to flourish. In 1890, the Town of Walkerville was founded.

At this time, the Windsor Police Department was operating out of the town hall, built in 1856 on Riverside Drive near Mercer Street. Samuel Port was Windsor's first recognized police officer, having been appointed in 1854. But the job was only part-time. Porter also worked as a blacksmith. It would be another 13 years before city fathers would officially enact a bylaw establishing the Windsor Police.

In 1870, 18-year-old Joseph Langlois joined the force and would serve his community for 53 years. It is said he never missed a day because of illness or injury, despite once suffering a broken jaw during a beating, which left him unable to eat for three days. It wouldn't be until May 1923, at the age of 71, that he would be forced to retire. Sadly "Old Joe" would pass away weeks later on June 17th. Some of his co-workers felt that it was his retirement which led to his death.

The Notorious

In its early days, Windsor was a haven for U.S. criminals. They could elude American authorities by simply crossing the border. A fine illustration from that time is the case of Frank Reno and Charlie Anderson which is chronicled in David Williams' book "Call in Pinkerton's".

On May 22nd, 1868, the Frank Reno gang robbed a train in Marsfield, Indiana. The gang consisted of Frank, his brothers Simeon and William, Charlie Anderson and six other men — none of whom would ever live to stand trial.

During the robbery, $96,000 worth of cash and securities were stolen and the train fireman was pistol-whipped until unconscious. Another was clubbed and seriously injured while a conductor was fired upon. The owners of the Adams Express Company hired Pinkerton's to hunt down the men responsible and the focus of their investigation quickly shifted to the Reno gang. With Allan Pinkerton, the founder of the Pinkerton Detective Agency in charge, his agents arrested three members of the gang but a mob seized and lynched them before they could be secured in a jail.

Vigilantes found and lynched three other gang members before they could be arrested. Authorities captured Simeon and William Reno, who were placed in the New Albany jail to await trial. Meanwhile, Frank Reno and Charlie Anderson fled to the safety of Windsor. Apparently the two were well-known here and had friends and acquaintances who were willing to help them.

Reno and Anderson enjoyed their freedom in Windsor while the U.S. government —with Allan Pinkerton installed as its representative — started extradition proceedings. Reno and Anderson were placed in the Sandwich jail, having been arrested August 13th, 1868 at their hideout — a house on Windsor Avenue at Brant Street. The original warrant was for robbery, but for some unknown reason, the first magistrate discharged them. Immediately, Pinkerton went to another local Magistrate Gordon McMicken, who signed a warrant for attempted murder and they were re-arrested. McMicken and Pinkerton already knew each other from previous dealings.

Reno and Anderson fought extradition every step of the way, partially out of a well-founded fear of being lynched. In fact, before the Canadian government would agree to proceed with the extradition they wanted assurances the men would be protected and given a fair trial.

During the extradition hearing in Windsor, 17 men, including some local police officers, testified that Reno and Anderson had been in Windsor at the time of the robbery and therefore could not have been involved in the train robbery. In the end, McMicken ordered the men removed from Canada. This order was appealed through the "Court of Common Pleas" and subsequently to the Governor-General-in-Counsel.

During these proceedings, an attempt was made on Pinkerton's life, a bribe was offered to McMicken's son and Reno and Anderson tried to tunnel their way out of jail. Finally, on October 24th, 1868, word came from Ottawa that they would be extradited. They were then turned over to Pinkerton and his men and placed on a steam tug destined for the U.S.

An elaborate plan was devised to get the men back without being lynched. This almost turned to disaster when their boat was rammed and sunk. Surprisingly, everyone survived even though both prisoners were weighed down with manacles. They were eventually secured in the same jail as Simeon and William Reno. Unfortunately, the engineer who had been beaten in the robbery, died of his injuries on December 7th and a week later about 75 men stormed the jail. When the sheriff refused to surrender the prisoners, he was shot, but not killed. Control of the jail soon fell to the vigilantes who hanged Charlie Anderson and the Reno brothers — Simeon, William and Frank.

No one would ever be prosecuted for the murders even though some of the men involved were later identified. The lynching of Reno and Anderson drew protests to

Washington and a bill was then rushed through congress ensuring federal protection for extradited fugitives. This wouldn't be the last time the Pinkerton agency would be involved in a high-profile case in Windsor.

In the early years, it was hard to find good men who would work as a police officer for $360 to $400 a year. As a result, problems ensued and on February 26th, 1872, Police Committee Chairman Donald Cameron recommended to town council the police department be disbanded in favour of William Bains and three men who would be night watchmen or day constables. In addition, Bains also held the title of Inspector of Weights and Measure. In his same motion, printed in the Essex Record, Cameron called for a code of conduct. This was done in 1876 and rules included such things as not being able to accept rewards, giving notice before quitting and not going into a bar without a reason.

The earliest complaint against a Windsor police officer was made April 6th, 1874. It accused Chief Bains of arresting two people without cause. The complainants also claimed Bains was "overdoing his duty" and committed other "indignities." The complaint was noted in a local paper and the Police Committee asked the chief to respond. Unfortunately there is no record on what, if anything happened. Nor is there a record of any response from Bains.

Equipment wasn't exactly a priority in the 1800's. Police budgets allowed only for the salaries of officers and members of the judiciary. In 1875, town council approved the purchase of "Hudson's Bay" overcoats for the officers — as long as the cost didn't exceed $10 each. While this doesn't seem like much now, it represented more than one week's pay per officer. Today, a week's pay would be just over $1,000.

But poor equipment didn't discourage officers such as Abe Nash from risking their lives. Shortly after joining the department in 1887, Nash jumped into the Detroit River and saved five people from drowning.

The incident happened August 1st, 1887, about midnight. As reported in The Evening Record, Nash was on patrol when a boat loaded with six people started back for Detroit. Apparently the occupants in the boat had been unable to secure lodgings for the night, forcing their late return. As the last person got on board, the boat capsized.

Nash made several dives into the fast-moving river, rescuing five of the six. Town council instructed the Police Committee to have a gold medal made to honour him. It was later presented to Nash for his "indomitable courage without any thought as to his own personal safety." Made by Bradley Brothers Jewellery, it was later given to the Windsor Police Service by Nash's son.

Progress came slowly to the Windsor force. Not until 1890, after Windsor's population had reached 10,000, did the police obtain a phone. One year later, it

acquired a typewriter. The chief's report from 1892 shows 528 offences were prosecuted — of which 87 were by indictment for a decrease of 15% from 1891. Windsor would become a city in 1892.

By 1904, city hall was vacated because it had become unsuitable. The City of Windsor then purchased Central School, which was situated on present-day City Hall Square. No longer in use, the school was purchased for $2,000 and became city hall's new location. The police also moved in, sharing quarters with city administrators for another 17 years.

In 1905, Abe Nash was back in the news after being shot in the line of duty. This incident started with the arrest of one Sam Jarvis. According to The Evening Record, Jarvis was caught robbing a fruit vendor. Nash made the arrest and proceeded to escort his prisoner to headquarters, pushing his bike and holding a gun on his prisoner at the same time.

But Jarvis turned and shot at Nash, hitting him in the neck. Luckily Joe Langlois was in the area and ran the fugitive down. Despite being shot, Nash joined the chase and caught up to Langlois and Jarvis. He was later quoted in The Evening Record as saying that he kicked Jarvis in the head until he was senseless — and that it was good thing his boots had rubber heels.

The War Comes To Windsor

One of the most notorious crimes in Windsor's history was the bombing of the Peabody Building and the attempted bombing of the Windsor Armouries. In the early morning hours of June 20th, 1915, a suitcase was placed next to the Peabody Building and another was placed near the south side of the armouries.

Uniforms for Canada's First World War soldiers were made at the Peabody Building and was not a significant military target, but the bombing still had an effect. The Evening Record immediately threw suspicion on German sympathizers and said Germany had "carried its campaign of frightfulness to Windsor."

Only minor damage was done, but the 27 sticks of dynamite in the second suitcase would have killed and injured many people because the armouries was the base for 21st Regiment and because St. Mary's Academy and All Saints Church were across the street. Again Pinkerton's were called, this time by Lt. Colonel Sherwood of the Dominion Police. The Dominion Police were charged with securing federal buildings and investigated matters of national security such as enemy aliens and attacks against the government. The main suspect quickly became Albert Kaltschmidt, a German national living in Detroit.

Kaltschmidt had married an American woman and owned an interest in the Tate Electric Company in Windsor. Working there was one William Lefler — the first

person to be arrested in the case. In his book "Call in Pinkerton's," David Williams says the June 25th, a Detroit newspaper article about a dynamite discovery at the Tate factory prompted arrest.

Lefler gave a partial confession to Nash. It starts out by saying that Lefler was warned "that anything he might say would be used against him, or for him, at his trial," similar to today's caution. In his statement, Lefler named Kaltschmidt and a second man who would later be identified as Carl Respa, another German national.

Lefler told Nash he brought the two suitcases to Windsor from Detroit and that Respa had two clocks. He went on to say Respa assembled the bombs and left the factory with them and that the Tate factory and Canada Bridge — a construction company — were the two initial targets. For his trouble Lefler was offered $200, but only received $25 from Kaltschmidt. According to Williams, Respa was identified after Lefler gave a Pinkerton agent, Frank Dimaio, information that the man he knew as Schmidt had served time in Kingston Penitentiary trying to blow up a bridge in Nipigon. This, coupled with an address in Detroit , led investigators right to Respa's doorstep where he was living with his sister.

Lefler went on trial July 29th and his confession was entered into evidence. He was convicted and sentenced to 10 years. It also came out at the trial that, in a moment of compassion, it was Lefler who had deactivated the armouries bomb. Even with Lefler's co-operation, neither Respa nor Kaltschmidt could be extradited to Canada.

Dimaio, to have an undercover agent board at Respa's home, then devised a plan. The operative convinced Respa and his family to go on a picnic on Bois Blanc Island, later known as Boblo Island. Respa didn't know Bois Blanc was in Canada and on August 29th, he, his sister, her children and their boarder "Harry Bingham" boarded the Papoose for a family picnic.

Also on board were Abe Nash and future Chief J.P. Smith, both of whom were in plain clothes. Once the boat docked, a shocked Carl Respa was taken into custody. The Amherstburg Echo wrote that a brief struggle took place and the boarder was also arrested and taken into custody. The newspaper went on to note "he was ignorant of the seriousness of the case and (police) are inclined to regard the matter lightly." Then, he was released. Reading between the lines, it would appear the agent was arrested to preserve his cover.

Respa was tried in March of 1916, and after being found guilty, he was sentenced to life in prison. Even though Kaltschmidt was tried in a Canadian court, he was arrested after the United States entered the war. Pinkerton's had kept an active file on him and on the first day the U.S. was at war, he was arrested for making explosive devices. Apparently, Lefler testified at his trial in the United States,

helping to convict the man who had swindled him years before. Kaltschmidt was given a prison term and was deported four years later.

The earliest annual chief's report in existence is from 1917. At this time, the police force consisted of 30 officers. Of these, 20 were constables, two were motorcycle officers riding Harley Davidsons and one was a truant officer. In addition, a patrol wagon had been purchased and was used 1,092 times that year — mostly for the conveyance of prisoners. It was also used 14 times as an ambulance.

It isn't known when this vehicle was purchased, but by 1917 it was in need of replacement. The earliest patrol wagon had a chain drive. Since police didn't have a facility of their own, they entered into a contract with the fire department, which agreed to store it and provide a driver for the cost of fuel, maintenance and $1,000 in wages. This would continue until the new police station opened a few years later. A new Studebaker wagon was bought in early 1918, for $1,440. This would mark the beginning of mechanization.

By comparison, the Detroit Police established their motorcycle squad 1908 and their first car was purchased in 1909. By 1929, the Detroit Police had radio-dispatched cars, something that wouldn't happen in Windsor until 1940.

In 1917, there were 20 automobiles stolen — all of which were recovered — and a total of 2,237 charges laid in police court. This was 945 more charges than were prosecuted in 1916. Almost $3,000 in fines was levied for traffic violations. The offences ranged from illegal parking to "furious driving."

By 1918, the police budget was $44,000 with the chief earning $2,000 and a constable, $1,200. That year, officers received a $10-a -month raise and asked for a pension fund. In addition, each officer received a turkey for Christmas. This practice would end in 1925. The question of pensions came up again in 1919, and for some reason 16 officers rejected the notion in favour of another $10-a-month raise. Meanwhile, a street car operators' strike caused unrest in the ranks and by July the police commission instructed the chief to talk to his men to see if they were going to "fulfill their oath of office". In August, the chief reported to the commission that the men no longer wished to unionize. The commission wanted them to sign an "obligation of loyalty" oath because some had refused to obey orders during the strike. They were told if they refused to sign, their resignations would be accepted. By October, eight officers had tendered their resignations but later met with the commission and the conflict was resolved.

The Roaring Twenties

By 1920, prohibition had started in the U.S. Our geographic location came into play in a major way. From 1920 to 1934, prohibition would enrich people on both sides of the border from the sale of liquor to the likes of Al Capone and the Purple Gang.

Smuggling methods were truly inventive. Smugglers hid liquor under their under-clothing and drove it across the frozen river in the winter. They'd even constructed an underwater pipeline.

While cities like Windsor had the authority to deal with liquor offences, smaller communities such as Riverside had to rely on the OPP. These battles brought Carl Farrow to the Windsor area. Future Chief Farrow was with the OPP and was stationed in Essex County during the Roaring Twenties. Not until February 1947, were towns such as Riverside and Sandwich East able to deal with liquor-related offences.

By September 1920, the commission wanted to reorganize and bring in a new chief. Chief Elias Wills had agreed to step down and become a police instructor and court clerk. The search for a successor led to Peterborough Police Chief Daniel Thompson. He was hired November 11th, 1920, and received a salary of $3,500 a year. Almost immediately, Thompson arranged for his men to receive first-aid training from St. John's Ambulance for $3 a man.

The force had grown tremendously in four years, employing 52 men — 32 of whom were hired within a two-year period. One man who stood out was 34-year-old James Wilkinson. Hired in 1920, Wilkinson pioneered the Identification Branch. He later became renowned in his field throughout North America and beyond.

At this time, the Children's Aid Society handled cases involving juveniles and domestic problems. Chief Thompson noted a crime wave, which featured robberies and break-ins, was sweeping the country. Records indicate he felt his men could not cope with these problems because of the poor condition of their old "Overland" car, which had been bought in 1919 for $1,558. The chief went to the commission and a new Studebaker was purchased. As a result, holdups and break-ins declined. Thompson also instituted a policy, which required officers on patrol to call in to the station.

A call for a "Police Benefit Fund" would go unheeded until 1938. Chief Thompson was prophetic in his observations that pool halls had to be controlled because they fostered illegal gambling. The recommendation was for care in issuing licenses to "foreigners." Such permits, he said, should be in the hands of "English-speaking" people.

Even with few cars on the road, Windsor recorded 513 collisions, which resulted in nine fatalities. And just fewer than 1,400 "card" violations were issued for traffic infractions. More than a half million cars were coming and going across the border and an additional traffic control officer would soon be needed at the intersection of Ouellette Avenue and London Street (now University Avenue).

Almost immediately, complaints were made against the new chief. The first came from city council in September 1921. It claimed "irregularities," but in an October

hearing, the commission determined the charges against Thompson had "absolutely been disproven."

This was also the year the Town of Riverside was established and Dennis Mahoney was hired to be chief of its two-man department. Mahoney had previously been a police officer in Windsor and Ford City. In addition to being chief, he was also the welfare administrator, dog catcher and truant officer — a common practice in smaller jurisdictions. The first police station in Riverside was known as a "St. Louis cottage." Their station was situated in what today would be a prestigious address on Riverside Drive, just east of St. Rose. Dennis Mahoney would start at $175 a month, the same wage as the town's only constable.

The First Justice Facility

Probably the most important event in 1921 was the opening of a new justice facility. Attorney-General William Raney presided over the official opening, and, in his remarks, called it the finest building for "police administration" he had ever seen. He went on to say, "This building will stand for a hundred years and by that time Canada would be a nation of a hundred million people."

The first home for the Windsor Police was spacious. The 30 officers who had grown accustomed to city hall's basement now had 7,200 square feet on the main floor and a basement of the same size. The "police court" area occupied the entire upper floor and featured wood wall panels and wainscoting. More light was brought into the second floor by two "lanterns" or skylights with the biggest one being 8' by 8'. This skylight was situated in the upper floor lobby or the area, which use to house the police museum.

The second floor also had a 23-foot by 29-foot gym complete with a locker room and shower. In February of 1923, the commission would authorize the purchase of exercise equipment, which consisted of a wrestling mat and a punch ball and gloves. The courtroom was a spacious 29 feet wide by 50 feet long and occupied the entire southeast section of the upper floor. Even though there wasn't an official identification branch until the next year, an office had been allowed for them in the new building.

The cell area had 12 individual units and a common area with a shower and washroom facilities. As the women's cells were against the outside of the building, most of their windows — which faced east — were covered with bars. This was also where the coal chute was located. The building also featured 13-foot ceilings and plaster coves, which would later be hidden by false ceilings.

The basement had a 20-foot by 86-foot drill hall along the entire west wall of the building. The basement also had a kitchen area, patrolmen's room and storage vaults which featured walls a foot thick. It's little wonder this building was

considered state of the art for its time. The first improvement would come in May 1922, with the installation of screens for the windows.

The building was obviously an impressive structure and was designed by Mr. Gilbert Jacques of Windsor. Mr. Jacques also designed Holy Names School, the Provincial Bank of Canada building at Victoria and University, and the Studebaker Building at Chatham Street and Pelissier.

Before leaving the border cities, Attorney-General Raney visited the new Walkerville police station, courthouse and jail at the Willistead Manor Coach House. Cell bars are still in place today on the building's west side.

James Wilkinson, A Man Ahead Of His Time

In 1922, with the support of Chief Thompson, James Wilkinson's request to start an identification branch became a reality. Wilkinson was a well-traveled man by the time he joined the Windsor Police, having already been an officer in England for five years, fighting in the First World War and working as a railway officer. He went back to England for a visit and, on his own, took a six-week identification course at Scotland Yard.

Wilkinson sought further training from Detroit Police — again on his own time. He also attended scientific conventions. Wilkinson started a system of cross-indexing which involved circulars on wanted fugitives, stolen property and other information. It was presented to a chief constables convention in 1923. By that time, Windsor was on the mailing list of every large police department in North America. And in turn, Windsor was sending out fingerprints to departments as far away Scotland Yard.

Wilkinson quickly made a name for himself, and Windsor. The first identification officer in North America, St. Louis Police Inspector John Shea, noted his cross-indexing system. According to a 1923 report, Shea was so impressed he planned to copy the idea.

According to James Wilkinson's son and daughter, he was also a close acquaintance of J. Edgar Hoover; it was not uncommon for the director of the FBI to stop by for dinner at the Wilkinson home. His son Gordon also remembers his father being sent to New Jersey to examine the body of a child found after the Lindberg kidnapping. Gordon also remembers his father being sent to fingerprint the Dionne quintuplets.

A couple of notable cases involved Wilkinson fingerprinting a sleeping suspect and identified him for the RCMP before he woke up. Another case of much note involved one Ralph Lee. Lee had been arrested in 1925 for a robbery committed in Knoxville, Tenn., and was going by the name of Howard Barr. He told authorities that he was born in Ontario to throw them off the trail. Knoxville Police contacted

Wilkinson, who was able to identify Lee through his cross-referencing system. It turned out that Indianapolis Police wanted Lee for murder and escaping from prison.

Wilkinson was quoted in The Windsor Star as claiming to be the person who invented the system of lifting fingerprints with graphite and tape. Before this system was devised, a print had to be photographed on the surface it was found. He is also credited with giving the first testimony in Canada for a case involving fingerprints and being the first to identify a fingerprint over the phone. Unfortunately, James Wilkinson died in 1957, after only two years of a well-deserved retirement. This was sadly common because of the few officers who made it; fewer still would enjoy much in the way of retirement after the age of 65.

In October of 1922, the first advancements in communications started to take place. The police department hired a part-time employee to install what would eventually be 53 call boxes throughout Windsor. Call boxes were fixtures on Windsor streets for the next 50 years. They were removed permanently in 1975. It would be a police officer, Ward Yokum, who would double as a mechanic to keep the fleet of about five vehicles on the road.

In this day and age, there weren't any female officers so "Captain Plant" — a member of the Salvation Army, did the processing of female prisoners. She would be referred to as a matron and according to the chief she was "the ideal person for the carrying on of the work or rescue in connection with the unfortunate girls and women who have fallen into our hands."

In the chief's report of 1922, he noted that one motorcycle had to be taken out of service. He recommended if another were purchased, it would need a sidecar for stability. It would also enable the driver to pick up a partner should a call require more than a single officer. Chief Thompson also noted that stolen autos had gone down by 55.9%. He attributed this in part to good police work as well as a one-year minimum sentence for this offence, which had been enacted the year before.

In 1925, the first traffic signal was set up at the corner of Ouellette Avenue and London Street (University Avenue). The signal light was only operational during the day and its installation allowed two constables and one sergeant to be reassigned. The police electrician was responsible for signal installation. But this advancement was not the first form of mechanical traffic control. The first came from the "Stop Bylaw" of 1923. In short, the words "stop" and "go" were written on alternate sides of a sign posted atop a 10-foot pole. These were erected along Ouellette Avenue and Wyandotte Street and signaled traffic to stop before crossing each street. In his 1924 report, Chief Thompson proudly claimed that because of this innovation, collisions had been reduced to 267 from 468 the previous year.

By this time, seven more call boxes were being requested for outlying areas such as Howard Avenue, Tecumseh Road, Ottawa Street and Benjamin Avenue. This

request had been made the year before but the $8,000 required was not made available. Still, the department managed to purchase five boxes but they sat in storage throughout 1926. In addition, eight drownings prompted the chief to request a boat at a cost of no more than $1,500. But this was also denied.

In 1926, an astounding 10 people were killed and 371 were injured in 350 collisions. Children on bicycles hanging on to streetcars caused the problem, in part. To address the problem, Chief Thompson instituted his "Safety First" program and he offered to send police officers into the schools to educate children. City youth were also urged to join the newly opened YMCA and YWCA so they could get "clean and proper athletic training," as well as mental benefits. The police matron's job was taken over by switchboard operator, Lettie Begg, who did double duty until 1930 because of the Salvation Army worker's departure. At this time detectives were actually given suits to wear provided by the department.

Through seven stormy years Chief Thompson launched many innovations. All this came to an end in 1927, when he resigned under great pressure and a looming decision on some of his dubious activities. In his book The Border Police, Marty Gervais details the almost constant turbulence surrounding Thompson. For years he was dogged by complaints. Some alleged he protected criminals. Others claimed he diverted money to himself. And then there were the ever-persistent morality issues of the Roaring Twenties. Again, city council lost confidence in their police department and recommended the chief be fired. Unfortunately, problems with gambling and bootlegging would continue even after Thompson resigned on November 19th, just an hour before the commission investigating him was to give its decision.

In the interim Assistant Commissioner A. Cuddy of the O.P.P. would take over and start re-organization. He would later recommend that the next chief be Mortimore Wigle who had joined the force in 1905. The commission accepted his recommendation and on January 24th, 1928, Wigle took over a department with 76 officers of all ranks and a budget of just under $218,000. Because of increased traffic volumes, nine officers were assigned to the traffic division. Wigle's inaugural year also marked the first time police officers were detailed to intersections to help children get to and from school.

Traffic problems were again the focus for the close of the '20s. In his report, Chief Wigle noted that the city had nine fatalities in 1929. Five of those victims were children who were killed on side streets. It was also noted that three people were killed in crashes related to the intersection of Ouellette and Wyandotte. In each collision, all the drivers were from the U.S. and each occurred at night, after the traffic lights had been turned off. These fatalities began the practice of leaving traffic control lights on all night. Sadly, the 1929 annual report also noted two cases of infanticide.

The Depression Years

The Roaring Twenties led to the Depression of the thirties. In 1930, the year started with 86 officers but ended with only 82. The sudden change in personnel came in December, when four officers were dismissed after being found responsible for a warehouse break-in. The break-in occurred December 22nd, and according to a newspaper report, 12 turkeys were stolen. A tip to police administration immediately focused the investigation on four police officers. At the onset of the investigation, only three of the officers were known by name. After several days, the fourth officer was identified and all four were suspended just after Christmas and then fired on December 29th.

In 1930 traffic problems decreased because Windsor and Detroit were joined in 1929 by a bridge. Prior to this, motorists had to use a ferry service, which required them to travel downtown. At this time Windsor only extended to Bridge Avenue on the west, Lincoln Road to the east and Tecumseh Road to the south. But congestion returned in late 1930 with the opening of the Windsor-Detroit tunnel.

The police commission also wielded considerable influence, evidenced by a request by the officers to start a hockey team. One commission member expressed a desire to have the officers obtain insurance in case they were hurt and couldn't work. The other members did not support this idea and the request was granted unconditionally.

By 1932, the police budget was $185,000, but with the depression came cutbacks, which foreshadowed the social contract of the 1990s. In April, the chief was asked to approach the men and see if they would agree to "voluntary sacrifices." They declined the offer, and wouldn't see a pay increase. The commission at $181,000 had accepted the original budget for 1933, but this was changed by the city. The budget would be pared down to $160,000 representing a savings of more than $14,500 in salaries alone.

On October 8th, 1932, two masked gunmen robbed a grocery store on Ottawa Street. During the robbery, two shots were fired, one of which struck the victim in the face. Just over a week later, Sandwich Police arrested one Albert Carrick and while being brought into headquarters, he shot and killed himself in the back of an officer's car. He was later identified as the man behind another armed robbery and was a suspect in the shooting of a storeowner. Officer safety was something yet to be learned.

With the deepening depression came the start of the Windsor Police Association. In May of 1934, a delegation of three officers addressed the commission, appealing for raises, as they had lost up to $500 per man in the previous two years. Police officers would go from being paid slightly more than a firefighter at $2,150 to $130 less than a fire fighter, or $1,650 a year. For an officer with less than five years' experience,

the pay was $1,550. The delegation also requested suitable summer wear. They were unsuccessful on both counts.

The next major event would be the annexation of Walkerville, Sandwich and East Windsor (Ford City) in 1935. This would stretch the city limits from Buckingham in the east to just west of Prospect Street, with a southerly boundary of Tecumseh and Malden Road. Chief Wigle would decline the opportunity to lead this new force so the job went to Walkerville Chief J.P. Smith. The other three chiefs, Wigle, Albert "Toppy" Maisonville from East Windsor and J.D. Proctor from Sandwich, reverted to the rank of inspector in charge of their respective areas. The Walkerville Police building would be retained as a substation until January 12th, 1939, when the commission determined mobile radios made it unnecessary.

The East Windsor station, which had been located on Drouillard Road just south of Riverside Drive, was closed in October of 1935. Also during this year two officers were dismissed. One was Joseph Lapine who went from cop to robber. Lapine, armed with a handgun, was shot during a safe job he was committing with another man.

With amalgamation came Windsor's first marine unit. The lone officer in this unit was Charles Johnson who had come from the East Windsor force and used his own Chris Craft. For at least the next three years, there were no drownings in the Detroit River. In 1938, the boat sank after being swamped. It was later recovered and towed to the United States. For some unknown reason, Johnson was never able to get his boat back and thus ended the marine patrol for some years to come.

A picture from 1935 shows the first known Windsor Police clown troop and it is a fine example of the commitment the police have had to their community over the years. In it were two officers, Leonard Bowden dressed as a convict and Alfred Wood dressed as an officer. This picture ran in the Border Cities Star on December 14 with a caption that the officers were off duty lending a hand for the "Christmas Cheer Club" tag day. Also in the picture was an old REO truck, which quite probably was the old paddy wagon, purchased in 1922. It had been converted to a truck and was still being used by the police department electrician.

Within three weeks of this picture being taken, Officer Bowden would be killed in an off -duty traffic accident. He had just worked the day shift December 31st. That evening he borrowed a car a friend wanted to sell him and headed out to a corner store. On his way back he apparently hit the trolley tracks on Ouellette Ave., lost control of the car and was critically injured. He died in hospital a few days later.

Unfortunately, just after taking the job as chief, J.P. Smith passed away due to a sudden heart attack. It was December of 1935 and he had just returned from taking a leave of absence because of ill health. The commission wasted little time choosing a replacement. During the same December 14th meeting when the commission noted the sudden death of Chief Smith, Mayor George Bennett nominated Detective

Sergeant Duncan MacNab to be the new chief. MacNab had over 20 years with the force and a good record. Claude Renaud was then nominated by Magistrate D.M. Brodie.

A discussion took place about the virtues of both men. Renaud had less experience and had left the force when he was a detective for two years to work as a railway investigator. He returned as an inspector, completely skipping over the rank of detective sergeant. Noting Renaud's youth and vigor, Judge J.J. Coughlin sided with Brodie and the younger man was made chief .

During the very next meeting the association would send a letter to the commission asking that the officers' wages and the departments' combined manpower be maintained. Mayor Bennett said the "present maximum salary for constables was inadequate to ensure a decent living standard and honesty." The commission wouldn't make a commitment.

By the beginning of 1936, the commission was faced with a budget of $200,000 and decided that 10 officers would have to be laid off. The association met and as a group decided they would affiliate with the "Labor Protection Association", either not knowing or ignoring the fact they could not associate themselves with a union. Both groups sent letters to the commission complaining about officers holding the same rank but getting different pay. They also pointed out that officers were not getting any increases even after obtaining enough seniority to entitle them to the higher pay scale.

A delegation of two association members attended the January 27 commission meeting but Judge Coughlin was waiting for them. The association members were warned about the illegality of their newfound associates. In fact, Judge Coughlin had brought in two widows to have them testify about their financial status. Mayor George Bennett objected to this but Brodie sided with Coughlin. A heated exchange then takes place when the mayor is called a "vindictive rascal," strong words for the day.

Again the mayor is outvoted and the widows are allowed to testify. Judge Coughlin leads his first witness, and next-door neighbor, through her testimony, knowing all the answers before the questions were asked. Again the mayor objected, threatened to leave and called the proceeding a comedy. The questioning continued and Bennett made good on his promise. The second woman testified even though she lived in the same block as the judge, she had never seen him before. The association delegation came back indicating eight officers refused to give in, at which point they are promptly fired by Coughlin and Brodie who voted on their own revised pay scale.

At the next commission meeting, February 10th, a delegation of four city aldermen — led by then-Alderman Art Reaume — asked the commission to reconsider. They were followed by three officers who indicated they had dissolved their relationship with the union and there had been a misunderstanding. The commission then

ordered a total of 13 officers to appear the next day so they could decide as a committee of two, who, if anyone, would be taken back. The mayor was not invited to be on the committee.

On February 11th, the 13 officers were interviewed. They were asked about their family and financial status as well as any misconduct they may have had in the past. Each was asked if he knew associating with a union was forbidden and it was promptly pointed out that each had been given a book of rules where this had been clearly spelled out. Most officers simply stated they misunderstood what had gone on at their meeting and didn't really remember what was said.

One of the officers on the carpet was former association president Reginald Parker. He was subjected to the most vigorous questioning and never seemed to have a chance at redemption. In the end, four officers were hired back on February 15th. At this meeting the mayor indicated he wanted to object but Judge Coughlin told him it would have to wait until the next meeting because he was pressed for time. It was clear who was in total control, and it wasn't the mayor or city council.

The mayor didn't bother objecting again and pleas from lawyers for six of the officers temporarily fell on deaf ears. On April 23rd, one of the fired officers was allowed by the commission to work as a dog catcher for $1,200 a year. Eventually, five would be taken back later in the year — including Reginald Parker.

It also seems the enforcement of city bylaws was a priority for the chief because he noted assigning officers to check billiard halls and bowling alleys , etc., as well as weighing bread and coal deliveries. On September 8th, the old Sandwich Police Station closed for good and in its place a telephone, connected to headquarters, was installed at the Sandwich Town Hall. Another telephone line was installed connecting the Windsor Police and the Detroit Police. A radio/telegraph service would also be established, connecting Windsor with eight U.S. cities as far away as Houston, Texas.

The shortage of men was evident when the chief noted in his 1936 report that in some cases, janitors were used as crossing guards. It was also in 1936 that Windsor's first, and obviously illegal, casino was taking shape in downtown Windsor.

The Michigan Club - Windsor's First Casino

The Michigan Club occupied the entire fourth floor of the Davis Building at 35 Sandwich St. East. To avoid unwanted guests such as the police , it was designed with only one way in and one way out. The lone entrance was an elevator which emptied into a coatroom staffed by an attendant and an alarm. From this coatroom there were still two doors to go through en route to the gambling area. The first

door swung in, but the second swung out making it impossible to force in. While this design worked for the first few raids, it would also turn out to be the crucial factor in probably the largest raid in Windsor's history.

The police had become aware of this gambling operation in November of 1936 and had conducted two raids prior to an exposé in a Detroit newspaper in early 1937. In the first two raids, the officers were unable to find any evidence of gambling because by the time they entered, all of the money and gaming chips had been put away leaving a few ping-pong tables.

The first two raids resulted in a charge of displaying racing information against the manager, one Edward Dunford, and a liquor charge against a patron. The newspaper article said "sucker money is flowing across the river to Canada to a new and elaborate gambling establishment in the heart of downtown Windsor." The article described an extensive operation where visitors had to prove they were American to get in. In addition, the entrance was suppose to be guarded by a man with a machine-gun. The article went on to say that every day the casino attracted more than 500 people.

Chief Renaud went on record saying the reports were "highly exaggerated" and the rumour of a "Tommy gun" was nonsense. With the attention now on, the pressure to act was obvious. On Friday, February 26th, officers issued a warning to those in charge and evicted the few patrons who were in attendance.

This warning was dismissed and business as usual took place, the next day officers were successful in arresting 190 people inside. A four-man operation led by Sergeants Bert Herod and John Watson, the raid was reportedly conducted with "machine-like precision." The officers were able to gain control of the elevator attendant without being noticed from the windows above. They were also successful in stopping the coatroom attendant before the alarm was sounded.

In true old English style, they demanded the doors be opened in the name of the King. Obviously this request fell on deaf ears and the officers proceeded to kick in the first door. While they couldn't kick in the second door, they were able to kick through the top wooden panel of the door. While officer Alex Innes was going through the opening he was tackled from behind by an employee. This man was "tossed to the side" and the officer was pushed through the opening.

Inside the room was pandemonium with patrons trying to cash their chips in and find their way out. Immediately the officers started grabbing evidence and called for backup while order was restored. Amazingly, after a few minutes everyone accepted their fate and the wagon started what would be 14 trips to convey everyone to headquarters. The fourth officer involved was Nero Bromball who saw several patrons race to the kitchen during the raid. He later found that they had put on aprons and were supervising the roasting of chickens when he arrested them.

Like a sinking ship, the 27 women at the Michigan Club were the first to leave. Since the cell area at headquarters was small, processing 190 people must have bordered on bedlam. Shuttling of prisoners took most of the afternoon. One man even offered the officers $5 to be on the next wagon. Not to be outdone, someone raised him $5.

In the raid almost $5,300 in chips were seized along with over $2,200 in cash, gaming tables, dice, membership books and seven chip racks. In the next edition of The Windsor Daily Star, all 190 names and their corresponding home addresses were published. About 80% were from Michigan. The Canadians who were arrested came from as far away as Montreal and Ottawa. Only 36 appeared to be from Essex County, as most gave hotel addresses for their places of residence.

The bail was paid by local lawyers Cecil Croll and James Clark. At their first scheduled appearance on March 6th, not one of those arrested showed up in court. A plea bargain was arranged and the manager, Eddie Polci, was fined the maximum of $200 and 40 of the people booked as found-ins were assessed a fine of $18 each. The money seized during the raid was returned to a member of the "club syndicate" which more than paid for the $920 in fines. In addition, Croll would assure the court and police that this was the end of the club.

While a rumour that the club was still operating reached the police commission in late March, there was no further record of the Michigan Club. Amazingly $600 in chips, most bearing the club's name, and one set of dice have survived. This forgotten piece of our history was brought to light by Sergeant Herod's family which has graciously donated the chips and dice to the Windsor Police Service.

In May of the same year, Windsor Police officers again showed their commitment to the community. In honour of King George VI, they raised funds for the "Coronation Rose Gardens" on Ouellette Avenue. In all, enough money was raised to plant 1050 rose bushes.

By this time Windsor was a community with 25,000 motor vehicles. And vehicles entering Canada at Windsor exceeded 1,500,000. The probation office laid charges against 205 juveniles ranging in age from nine to fifteen.

Radio tenders were called for in March 1937 with the cost of outfitting six cars being about $2,500 for a one-way system. During the process, the chief was asked about a two-way system and he told the commission this technology was experimental at the time. By April 8th, the police commission authorized six cars to be equipped with one-way radios. And an additional thousand dollars was allowed to strengthen the building's roof to accommodate aerial posts. The radios would be purchased in mid-1939 from the Canadian Marconi Company for $3,200. Since no one with the Windsor Police had any experience with such equipment an engineer from CKLW Radio, Mr. W. Carter, would act as a consultant.

Apparently $1,000 wasn't enough to shore up the roof of headquarters as on February 22nd, 1940, the 70 foot mast, weighing three tons and having been erected only a few months before, came crashing down about 7:00 a.m. The mast was five inches in diameter and stopped on the second floor after taking out a filing cabinet in the identification branch. The sergeant on duty at the time would later be quoted in The Windsor Daily Star as saying that, "I thought a bomb had been dropped on the place. I began to think Hitler's blitzkrieg had come to Canada at last. But I wonder why they should have picked on me."

By July, another complaint about illegal gambling was received by the commission. According to the December commission minutes, the mayor asked the chief to institute a "morality squad" to battle vice problems in Windsor. Initially, two officers would comprise the new squad. In his annual report the chief, as he would every year after, ask for more at least 15 more men. Revolver training would not take place this year nor the next due to a lack of funds to purchase ammunition. Also in 1937, the Windsor Police would need the help of 24 officers from the OPP who would be brought here for 25 days in May and June, to handle strikes. This would be repeated in 1938 when 33 officers from the OPP had to be brought in for a few days.

Tragedy Strikes

On November 3rd 1937 the first of three officers would be killed in the line of duty. In each case it would be a traffic accident which would take a police officer's life. On this particular occasion, Officer David D. Beckett, 40, was the passenger in the patrol wagon on the afternoon shift. The wagon was responding to an accident call at Huron Church and Wyandotte which would turn out to involve a stolen car.

The wagon driver, Officer Phillip Tollafield, drove west on Wyandotte and proceeded through the traffic light at Ouellette Ave. which he said was green for west bound traffic. The driver of the other car, Arthur Shaw, was going south on Ouellette and said he had the green light. When the vehicles collided in the intersection, Beckett was thrown from the wagon, which would then fall on top of him. A group of people were able to lift the wagon off of him but officer Beckett had died instantly.

Kids Helping Kids

On March 22nd, 1938, Toronto Police Inspector Ed Dunn spoke at Paterson Collegiate and gave a stunning statistic. He was quoted as saying one out of every three children under the age of 10, were "doomed" to be injured or killed in an accident sometime during their lives. In fact, during the previous two years, Windsor had 26 fatalities — 15 of which involved pedestrians. During his speech, Dunn told the audience that speed and faulty brakes were two main reasons for collisions.

It was only a few weeks before this meeting that Windsor had started the first school safety patrol in Canada. The idea of a student safety patrol came after a visit to Detroit by officer Peter Doorigan the year before. School safety patrols had been in the Detroit area since 1919. They were born out of necessity because in 1917, 112 Detroit children had been killed going to or returning from school.

The first school patrol started at St. Alphonsus School with 15 boys on March 8th. Soon, hundreds of school safety patrol boys and girls were on the job keeping their fellow students safe. "Doorigan's boys" as they would later be known, served their community well. In the first year, they would grow to an organization of 450 boys and were credited in 1937 with helping cut injuries to children from 143, including two fatalities, to 94 and one fatality the following year.

This program spread to other cities in Canada. Constable Doorigan was detailed full-time to the project, working out of the Walkerville substation. At first, the boys had only six white belts — which were a gift from Detroit Police — and $10 from the police fund. Doorigan then collected $1,500 to buy raincoats for his patrols. This idea worked through the commitment of police, school officials, sponsor teachers and principals and community agencies like the Essex County Automobile Club and Ontario Motor League. After heading this program for 15 years, Peter was followed by Gervis Bertrand then many others. Today school safety patrols are still a welcome sight around Windsor.

It was also in 1938 that the first police pension fund was started with the Sun Life Insurance Company. Retirement age was set at 65. When this was finally passed by the commission, three officers indicated they were against the plan. The officers were ordered to the next commission meeting. On September 29th, only one officer appeared and he now approved of the plan. Due to this unexpected turn of events, the commission then made membership in the plan mandatory.

As previously stated, the police radios first came into use in 1939. And in the first six months more than 4,800 calls were dispatched. With the start of the Second World War in 1939, three police officers enlisted but only one was replaced. The remaining officers would donate half of one per cent of their pay to the "Patriotic Fund of Civic Employees."

The King and Queen came on an official visit to Windsor in 1939. The size of the force remained at 100 but growing pains were evident with the new radio system. One of the problems was that broadcasts from Detroit blocked local transmissions. Another complaint on vice-related problems came to the commission's attention in August from outside Windsor. This letter was from the Attorney-General dated July 28th, advising that the liquor laws in Windsor were not being properly enforced. And for the third straight year there was no revolver training.

The force actually decreased in size in 1940 to 96 officers. Another five officers and one civilian member went off to war and only three were replaced. The police budget went back up and stood at $248,000. A new category was placed in the annual report that being "Subversive Activities."

Among those targeted were "enemy aliens," of which there were almost 1,500 in Windsor. People of Italian descent were sometimes considered enemy aliens, which affected one of the Windsor police department's own. Constable Nero Bromball had been born in Italy and in June of 1940 the city's "Board of Control" recommended he be suspended indefinitely until the war was over. By this time, Bromball had served as an officer for more than 12 years, yet he was dismissed and never returned.

Not until 1990 did the commission apologize for firing Bromball. On December 11th, an official apology was given to his son Douglas and granddaughter Karen Brombal. Unfortunately Nero had passed away in 1974 without hearing this for himself. Douglas remembers the day his father was fired was the only time he had ever seen him cry.

In addition to identifying enemy aliens, 105 people were arrested under the Defence of Canada Regulations, with 79 being convicted and interned. More complaints were made about gambling and blind pigs, this time from a city alderman. The commission noted these comments in October of 1940 and dismissed them as unwarranted. The chief also noted in his report that traffic along Sandwich Street had improved since the Peabody Bridge was widened. It is hard to imagine the river front bridge being narrower than it was when it was torn down.

By 1941 Windsor's complement of police officers was down to 94 men and the area had been designated a "vulnerable area" by the government. The Civilian Defence Committee was contemplating "black-out" rehearsals. In May, a request was made of the commission to have a shooting range installed in the city market's basement. This idea was supported. In May the commission also authorized the hiring of four parking bylaw enforcement officers, but only three would be hired.

Just before Christmas of 1941, the commission received a letter from the "Central Citizens Association," requesting that consideration should be given to have a "coloured person" appointed to the service. This was in fact the second such request to come before the commission. The first was made in 1923 in a letter written by M.P.P. Mr. F.W. Wilson. At that time the commission would respond that "in all appointments to the force no regard was paid to colour, nationality or creed, but entirely upon the merits of the applicant."

The most recent request was fulfilled within 10 months when Alton Parker was hired in September of 1942. In 1953, Parker became the first black detective in Canada. And in 1966, to foster goodwill, he started a tradition which lasted 22 years. An afternoon for the children in the area of Howard Avenue and Erie Street

would come to be known as "Uncle Al's Kids' Party." This event started with a couple of dozen children and grew remarkably, playing host to as many as 800 children. During his 28 year career , Alton was elected to the Windsor Police Association executive three times and his wife, Evelyn, became president of the Women's Auxiliary. He went on to receive numerous awards, including the Order of Canada which he received in 1976.

The Canadian Policeman

This was also the year that James Wilkinson went to the police commission and asked permission to raise funds for the war effort. Originally from Leeds, England, Wilkinson asked not only to raise funds but wanted enough to buy a Spitfire fighter plane. The cost: $25,000. And the commission "heartily endorsed" his efforts.

This chapter of our history had been forgotten by almost everyone until the daughter of Sergeant George Markham turned in a picture of her father holding a dedication plate and a letter from 1942. The dedication plate read:

The Canadian Policeman
This "Spitfire" was purchased under the sponsorship of
the Ontario Police Association, Windsor, Ont.
With donations received from police departments
in all parts of the United States of America and Canada
Complete list on file with Sir Philip Game, Commissioner Scotland Yard
Fear not but trust in providence
Wherever thou may be, Good Luck Pilot.

In short, the letter was from a farm girl in Yorkshire, England. According to the letter she had found the Spitfire's wreckage in a field, and its pilot inside, dead. She found the dedication plate, removed it and sent it back to Windsor.

This picture would lead to a six-month investigation to determine who the Ontario Police Association was and why was Windsor involved. The entire $25,000 had been raised by October, 1941. The dedication plate was engraved in Windsor and presented to the commission. According to James Wilkinson's son Gordon, his father received a great deal of help from a chief of detectives in Detroit, who enlisted the aid of entertainers who came to the Fox Theater to perform. He remembers stars such as Red Skelton, Janet Gaynor and Betty Grable to name a few.

Unfortunately, the name on the plate was mixed up. The funds had actually been raised through the Police Association of Ontario, of which Wilkinson was the first president from Windsor. The plane was purchased and a dedication ceremony was held April 8th, 1942, in North Weald, England. The pilot was a former RCMP officer named Gordon Hoben.

Hoben had been with the RCMP for five years before enlisting in the air force on June 21st, 1940. Ironically, part of his time as an officer was spent in Windsor. After leaving the RCMP Hoben, a trained bomber pilot, had logged 15 flights over Germany and Italy when he was selected to fly "The Canadian Policeman." This was the first time in the history of the RAF or RCAF that a non-military organization was able to name the pilot of a gift of war plane.

Hoben was attached to the 403 squadron whose badge was a wolf's head. Its motto: Stalk and Strike. This squadron consisted entirely of Spitfires. At the dedication, Sir Philip Game was on hand to represent all the officers who had donated to this noble cause who could not obviously attend. Three flanks of Spitfires were arranged on the parade square with Hoben and his plane, a Spitfire Mk, being the fourth flank. In honour of the occasion, one side of the square was made up entirely of RCMP officers who had joined the RCAF.

Hoben was rightfully proud of his assignment and new fighter. He would write to his parents in Ottawa, "I then went up and met the members of the RCMP and it was grand to see so many whom I knew. There must have been at least 24 of them and I knew about half." He added: "They were most cordial to me and seemed so pleased with the plane and the honour bestowed upon me. It really did my heart good."

By April, 1942, they were flying as bomber escorts and as a fighter squadron and would loose their third commanding officer in a year. On June 2nd, they were attacked by a group of about 30 enemy planes and lost six pilots. After this, the squadron was moved north for a much deserved rest. The original plane named the Canadian Policeman had a short life. On May 4th, 1942, it was destroyed in a taxiing accident but apparently the name was kept alive when the door and dedication plate were transferred to another plane. Sadly, on July 11th, 1942 , Hoben's plane crashed near Topcliffe aerodrome and he was killed. Records of this crash are sketchy and it isn't known why the plane went down.

It would so happen that days after the first accident, Wilkinson approached the commission for support in raising funds for a second plane. In all funds for three Spitfires were raised. The last plane was to be named the "Commissioner Wood R.C.M.P." But by the time the funds for the third plane had been raised, the war's end was near. The remaining $25,000 would then be donated to the Red Cross in 1945.

Gordon Wilkinson remembers being overseas with the Canadian army and having the honour of attending a dedication ceremony for one of the planes his father had helped purchase. He remembers the pilot being a Flight Lieutenant Ball and that the plane had been shot down. This may have been the second plane, but up to this time no information on it can be found.

In June of 1944, the Windsor Police Association complained to the police commission that during the raising of these funds, people thought it was through them and not the PAO. They asked the commission to instruct Wilkinson to ensure his work was done under the name of the Police Association of Ontario.

While the dedication plate said the list of donors was on file with Scotland Yard, they have been unable to find who was involved. The actions of Wilkinson and all others who helped should be a source of pride for all police officers.

In 1942, the force was back up to 100 men who responded to almost 10,000 calls for service. The Ford Motor Company supervised the removal of old streetcar rails on Windsor's major thoroughfares. The chief noted that these rails had been the cause of many serious collisions. The steel was recycled into war materials.

By the end of 1942, seven officers had left to go to war and only one who had been overseas returned to the force. One of these men was 25-year-old Alfred Green who joined the RCAF, but never returned. Pilot officer Green flew his "Miles Master" out of a cloud and dove straight into the ground near Wansford, England on August 19th, 1944. He was buried in the Brookwood Military Cemetary in Surrey.

A Lesson In Officer Safety

The only significant incident of 1943, occurred in May. One Theona Gouin and her common-law husband Charles Cayouette came to Windsor from Montreal. They had been out during the early morning hours of May 12th and ended up in a domestic dispute in a downtown alley. During the argument, Gouin was struck and fell to the ground, eventually dying from a cerebral hemorrhage.

Cayouette was quickly taken into custody and held until he was charged with manslaughter several days later. After being arraigned on the charge and prior to taking him to the county jail, two detectives on the case escorted him back to the couple's apartment. Allowed to wander freely, he went into a bedroom and committed suicide with a gun. A special commission meeting was held to investigate the matter.

The detectives testified Cayouette was not handcuffed as he was a model prisoner, always willing and submissive. Asked why he was taken to his former residence, the detectives said he was going to point out some "salient" features of the crime.

The detectives were questioned as to why they had taken this prisoner without a judge's order. They thought they had such authority under common law. In the end, it was pointed out that in future, no prisoner could be escorted out of the cell area without the authorization of the chief or deputy. It was also made clear that all prisoners should be handcuffed and that the officers were lucky they weren't killed.

In 1944, a request was made of the commission by the "Windsor Council of Women." This group advocated the appointment of a policewoman. Magistrate A.W. MacMillan, who was on the commission, stated the recommendation was commendable, but he doubted the hiring of one new person would be sufficient to create a whole new branch. It was also noted that when the men came back from the war, they must be reinstated. Not until October, 1946, would the first policewoman, Edith 'Edie' Snook, be appointed. Her hiring was followed weeks later by the appointment of Marion Drummond.

While 1944 was a routine year, 1945 was anything but. In October, city council approved the addition of 25 men at a cost of $13,500. These new officers would receive local organized training and had to pass an exam. The police expended nearly $319,000 and ended up with 125 officers on the streets.

The association approached the commission for permission to organize a "club" and the commission minutes noted they were "not well disposed to the project". On February 8th, Mr. J. H. Rodd K.C. spoke to the commission on behalf of the association and after giving assurances they would not be selling alcohol, permission was granted to apply for a charter. The commission was then asked if there would be room in the police building for the new club. The commission indicated there wasn't, but a substantial extension was being considered. The promotional policy was brought up and the association was told that if everything was equal, seniority would be the deciding factor. They would go on by saying that "fitness and ability" would be predominant factors as well.

The Windsor Slasher

A warm July night began a year with five knife attacks, which would leave two people dead and three lucky they weren't. On July 23rd, 1945, 49-year-old George Mannie was at the Detroit River near California Street drinking rubbing alcohol with some friends. At the time there was a small, sandy beach along the river's shore and it was a popular place to visit, especially on a hot day.

George's friends left him and he fell asleep. When he woke up, he stayed in the area until just after 1:30 a.m. when he was attacked and stabbed twice in the back — once on his right side and the second time just to the right of his spine. After the attack he staggered to Sandwich Street to get help. Mannie survived this attack and gave investigators a sketchy story about being attacked for no reason by two men. His story didn't match up with the physical evidence at the scene and the detectives immediately doubted his story. The surrender of Japan was only days away and this attack barely made page five of The Windsor Daily Star.

The war was still the focus of news when a second and fatal attack occurred. It was at 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 8th, when the body of 56-year-old Frank Scigalski was found in a field west of Caron Avenue and Sandwich Street. A CPR employee

found the body about 23' feet from a railway embankment. An examination of the body showed he had been stabbed six times in the back and left side. His trousers had almost been cut from the body and there was a slash on his left buttock.

It was the city's first homicide of the year and the story made page three. Scigalski's 1936 Ford was later found on Bruce Avenue near the British American Brewery. Three days later, police were quoted as saying an arrest was expected soon but there was no clue as to who was responsible.

Tragedy struck again only eight days later. A night watchman by the name of William Davis, 66, was found brutally beaten to death in the second-floor garage area of the G. Tate Easton building at 731 Goyeau Street. Injuries to his skull were extensive and a hammer used in the attack had broken because of the force of the blows.

Investigators learned Davis was last seen when he came on duty at 8:26 p.m., August 15th. He was in the habit of locking all the doors upon starting work and would not let anyone in unless he knew them. Nothing was taken from the building and a point of entry was never established, although a north side window was a possibility. The second homicide of 1945 would never be solved and again would only make page three.

Everything changed only two days later, Saturday, August 18th. The body of Hugh Blackwood Price, 44, was found about 1:30 a.m., again by a citizen walking home. The gruesome discovery was made in a field, which is now the CBC property at Riverside Drive and Crawford, about one hundred feet from where Frank Scigalski was found.

Price was a war veteran and was wearing an Essex Scottish uniform when he was killed. An examination of the scene by detectives showed his body had been dragged about 23 feet and left only 23 feet from Sandwich Street. Contrary to rumours, Price still had his clothes on. He suffered 12 stab wounds to his body. And his throat had been slashed. Nine of the stab wounds were in his chest, two in his back with one of being just to the right of the spine and one on top of his shoulder.

This story made front-page news knocking off the war which had dominated the headlines for most of the last five years. Immediately the connection was made between the two homicides, and if the police had made a connection to the Mannie stabbing they weren't talking about it. In its August 18th newspaper, The Star offered a $1,000 reward for information on any of the killings. The person responsible for the first and last homicide was quickly dubbed the "Slasher Slayer".

Price was also known locally as "Professor Cosmo," professing himself a tea leaf reader and astrologer. The investigation revealed "two of the murder victims were alleged homosexuals," Chief Renaud said in his annual report. In the next edition of The Star, the city upped the ante and offered a $2,000 reward of its own.

Immediately the assistance of the OPP was requested and an undercover operation was begun in the area of the river front. The RCMP and Detroit Police also assisted.

The city was now in a panic with tips flooded in about every stranger. Theories abounded and the paper likened this to a modern-day "Jack the Ripper." In a few days, 30 of the usual suspects had been arrested and interviewed. Shortly after that, the number swelled to more than 100 but still no leads.

As quickly as he struck, the Slasher stopped and no further incidents occurred until the following June. Meanwhile, no-one was in a joking mood. Shortly after the two murders, two Windsor men visited a local restaurant and sat at a table. When the waitress pointed out the table was reserved one of them wrote, "Next a girl, Slasher," on the back of a menu.

The police were called and the pair was arrested and charged with mischief. The next day they appeared in court and pleade guilty to the charge. The judge sent a message and remanded both in custody for a week to await sentencing.

In March, 1946, a mysterious envelope was received by police. It featured a March 20th postmark and contained a couple of pages of handwritten notes in red pencil. It was a challenge to the police and said, "I will strike again in the near future" and that only a knife will be used. The notes went on to say the killer wasn't a soldier who had returned from the war, adding: "Please forgive me, but these people have destroyed my whole life." The notes were signed "The Slasher," and had a drawing of a knife dripping with blood beside the name.

The next victim was 29-year-old Alexander Voligny. He told police he met a stranger in Government Park, now Dieppe Gardens, before midnight on Saturday June 22nd. The stranger was a young man who made sexual advances by placing his hand first on his leg then on his privates. They then went to a secluded spot where they laid down and the young man started removing his braces. Voligny was asked to roll over and when he did, he was stabbed in the back with what was originally though to be an ice pick but was actually a leather worker's awl.

The stranger then ran away, heading west on Sandwich, laughing. Voligny went for help and flagged down a stranger who took him to headquarters with the awl still sticking out of his back. Amazingly, after four-and-a-half inches of the awl had been plunged into his back just to the left of his spine between his shoulder blades, Voligny was not fatally injured.

The last victim was just as lucky when he was stabbed on the night of Saturday, July 6th, just after midnight. Joseph Gelenscer, 48, had gone down to the river to cool off when he met a young man. The man had caught up to him as he was walking in the park near Caron Avenue. Gelenscer told police the stranger started talking about women. Gelenscer said he told the stranger he was married and wasn't interested in

sex talk so he turned his back to walk away. He was then stabbed in the back with a kitchen knife. Again, the weapon was left in his back as the attacker ran off.

Gelenscer was able to remove the knife and went for help. He was picked up by a cab near the foot of Bridge Avenue and taken to hospital. The wound was behind his left shoulder and the knife proved to be the break police needed. A picture of the knife, which was missing a rivet in its handle, appeared in the newspaper the next day. This prompted Dorothy Sears to talk to her step-father. Dorothy recognized the knife as one she had found around her in-laws' house the day before and suspected her brother-in-law.

The father-in-law then went to the police and told them everything Dorothy had told him. A team of four detectives then went to the Sears home at 261 Cameron Ave. and arrested 18-year-old Ronald Sears without telling him what for. He was brought to headquarters on that hot July afternoon and questioned about the two most recent stabbings, he denied any involvement. Sears was taken to the cell area while the detectives went for supper.

They returned about 9 p.m. and again questioned Sears about some new information they had. In the next four-and-a-half hours, Sears admitted stabbing Gelenscer, Voligny, Price and Scigalski. Each statement was different and gave details which were consistent with the crimes.

In each statement, he said the victim started touching him or talking dirty, at which point he knew they were sexual perverts. After the first incident, he must have realized what he did wrong because he went on to say he started aiming for the hearts of his victims. In the two murders, Sears admitted going back and stabbing both victims repeatedly after initially starting to run away. The detectives heard from him that he had been abused as a boy and he was trying to save other children because these men were perverts. When questioned about the Gelenscer stabbing, Sears showed detectives a small cut on his hand which he said occurred when the butt of his knife cut him when it was plunged into his victim's back.

Sears told police he was glad he got caught because he was planning to kill again the following weekend. In the early morning hours, the heat and fatigue made Sears ill and a doctor was called, ending the interrogation. At 9:15 a.m., Sears gave a fifth statement admitting to the attempted murder of George Mannie. His father testified he wanted to see his son but wasn't allowed to until he went to court.

The next day, all the details of the case were front-page news. Even the name of the informant, who wanted to be anonymous, was in print. In the next few days the survivors would see Sears in a physical line-up and only Gelenscer would pick him out.

Justice was quick and Ronald Sears was on trial by September 11th, for the Price murder. Evidence centred around his confession and his sister-in-law's testimony.

Defence attorney Major James Clark found it unbelievable that anyone in their right mind would ever admit to anything, let alone these horrendous crimes.

In a voir dire (a trial within a trial to determine the admissibility of evidence) which lasted a day-and-a-half, Clark went at detectives relentlessly. He asked why they didn't get someone off the street to witness these voluntary statements. He suggested they should have had a stenographer.

Sears testified that he didn't remember anything after his first two denials. He never alleged any mistreatment or threats against police. When questioned by the Crown he agreed he had made some of the remarks attributed to him and they were true. Dorothy Sears later testified Ronald had admitted the killings to her and her husband, Ronald's twin, and that he had written a confession, then destroyed it. He said later the written confession was a joke but she feared Ronald, thinking him strange.

The jury went out September 18th at 4:15 p.m. and took less than two hours to reach a verdict. The jury delivered a guilty verdict, they were polled and Sears was sentenced to hang on December 3rd, all in 10 minutes. His confession would later be thrown out by the Ontario Court of Appeals, leaving the attempted murder of Joseph Gelenscer as the only prosecutable charge.

Sears next trial was in February, 1947, and again he was convicted, largely on the identification by the victim. Sears was sentenced to 12 years in prison but later died in an institution.

The Ford Strike

On the heels of the "Slasher" murders came the Ford strike which was a pivotal moment in the history of Canada's labour movement. The strike started September 12th, 1945, after a year-and-a-half of failed negotiations. Immediately the commission received a letter from Ford requesting police assistance in getting into their plant. Also as immediate was the position of each commission member. Magistrate MacMillan questioned the right of anyone to prevent someone from entering a plant. Judge Coughlin said police must not "countenance" any breach of the law and Mayor Reaume urged discretion to prevent trouble.

On October 25th, Ford sent a telegram to the commission to obtain police assistance in getting their protection personnel into the plant. The chief was told to see how many men were available, talk to plant protection officers, then report back.

A few days later, the commission met again, this time with a three-person delegation from Ford. The commission was told there were 110 plant protection officers who needed access to the power house. They were told the men were not maintenance workers, but were required in case of emergencies such as fire or breakdowns. The

delegation told the commission the power plant was worth more than $6 million and this was the first time since 1923 that it was shut down. They went on to say they didn't know what would happen should there be a frost. The commission also heard of a potential hazard caused by the presence of gas and a smoldering fire in the coal pile, and with no power nothing could be done to control it.

The commission met the next day with union representatives led by Roy England. The union was told of the potential problems as laid out by the company. In turn, the commission heard the men had been left in the power plant for a month as they didn't want any damage. The men were then brought out and an offer was made to the company to bring the pressure down in the plant, but management refused.

The union was told by Coughlin the company had a right to go in and it would be an offence to stop them. It was then said police weren't strikebreakers but the union couldn't flout the law. The minutes of the meeting describe a "lively discussion" with the union taking the position that the protection officers were going to run the plant then there would be requests for maintenance men, then foremen, then office workers. This meeting ended with the delegation telling the commission they would hold a union meeting that night.

The next day the commission learned the union had refused to budge. Judge Coughlin felt it was questionable that the police would be able to get the 110 men into the plant, but they would have to try. If they failed, then additional men would have to be called in. Magistrate MacMillan was of the opinion that the union was flouting the law and the rights of individuals should be enforced. Mayor Reaume informed the other members that a counter-proposal was on its way to Ottawa and they should wait to avoid bloodshed.

In the end, the mayor was outvoted and a resolution was made stating frost would damage the machinery and endanger the surrounding area. This, according to the commission, would be the same if sledge hammers and torches were used and there was an emergency which needed immediate action. Chief Renaud was ordered to take the necessary steps to get the men in and he was authorized to get outside help if required.

The union appears to have anticipated police would try to get the men in and about 500 union members were at the plant when a squad of about 15 officers arrived. Chief Renaud and Deputy Chief Neale physically led their men in a vain attempt to carry out their orders. A pushing match lasted for about five minutes until the officers gave up. The only injury reported was a black eye to one officer. It was reported in The Star that Deputy Chief Neale ran to a police car and appeared to be readying some tear gas. A conversation then took place between the chief and the deputy and the items were put away.

After this attempt, the RCMP and the OPP were called in but to no avail. On November 5th, the area around the plant was surrounded for blocks by a blockade

of cars. Tension remained high when the union again appeared before the commission on November 13th. At this meeting they offered to open the power house if the company agreed to arbitration. They would also ask that the RCMP and OPP leave the city to relieve the tension.

The commission conceded that the emergency had passed. They also made a resolution that the commission exists to uphold the law with an even hand. As a result, Justice Ivan Rand was called in to arbitrate the issues.

By 1946, the police budget was up to $400,000 and 137 officers were on the force. More than 12,000 calls for service would be broadcast over the almost obsolete AM radio system. A city solicitor and representatives from the parks department approached the commission looking for more protection in our parks. The Slasher was still fresh in people's minds and the commission was told about vandalism and an epidemic of indecent conduct. In this February meeting an offer to help patrol the parks was made by the Windsor Legion of Frontiersmen. This offer was accepted by the commission.

The association asked for a 10% raise as well a reduction in the probationary period from five years to three. The raise was granted but the reduction in probation was not. By August, the "Slasher" was in custody and there was be a request to have parks employees sworn in as special constables. Again this offer of help was accepted.

Magistrate MacMillan raised concerns about the continuing morality problems being brought up in the press. The chief stated the morality squad was up to seven men. It was also brought up that the commission was concerned about reports of statements made by unknown members of the force. The chief was ordered to investigate.

Although policewomen were hired in 1946, they weren't paid like their male counterparts. The beginning of 1947 would give them a raise to bring them up to the wages of a grade three clerk, $1,750. In 1947, the new chairman of the commission was Judge A.J. Gordon.

During the March 20th meeting of the commission, Gordon again brought up the press reports of statements made by a Detroit Police superintendent. Judge Gordon would ask the chief for a report on the situation within 10 days. These complaints had reached the attorney-general who sent an investigator to Windsor. His report was delivered and it indicated that there wasn't enough information for an official investigation.

The chief's report said the department was in harmony and there were five men in morality. The commission issued a statement April 5th that there was no evidence of wrongdoing by any members of the force. They instructed the chief to "wage a relentless war against all wrongdoers without fear or partiality".

The Chief Is Dead

Even quiet Riverside had moments of violence. Being a small community required everyone, including the chief, to answer calls. This was the case when Chief Dennis Mahoney of Riverside responded to a suspicious man report on the afternoon of May 30th, 1947. The chief was with Sergeant Wallace Renaud and upon arriving at the house on Riverside Drive, the chief took the back. The back door had been forced and as Mahoney pulled his gun he was shot in the chest, a second shot would miss him by inches.

The suspect, 48-year-old Harold Goddard, ran east while the chief staggered out to get help. The chief would tell Renaud to go after the suspect. The husband of the woman who had originally called the police, was outraged that the chief had been shot and, after grabbing his gun, he got into the cruiser with the chief in the back seat. As Goddard ran, Renaud opened the door of the moving car and shot at him. The neighbor also fired a shot.

One of the shots hit the suspect in the arm. He then turned his gun on himself. His suicide attempt was unsuccessful because his gun jammed. The chief then arrested the man who apparently apologized for shooting him. The chase ended near the chief's home on Riverside Drive. His wife came out to see what the commotion was. A man in the area told her someone had been killed. When she asked who it was she was told, "the chief." Obviously, the rumour of his death was greatly exaggerated as the chief was still alive and well enough to arrest his attacker.

Chief Mahoney's daughter explained that her father had been in a serious accident in the 1920s and his chest was caved in. The resulting buildup of bone in his chest saved his life. Goddard was sentenced to 20 years in prison. When leaving the court he threatened to return and kill the chief, but he died in prison. In a rather cavalier statement, The Windsor Daily Star explained that if Goddard hadn't shot anyone "he would have been a plain burglar with a gun on his hip."

A Second Tragedy — 10 Years Later

The second Windsor police officer killed in the line of duty happened almost exactly 10 years after the first. This time it was be 51-year-old Constable Frank Graham who was killed, and his partner, George Renaud, was seriously injured. They were returning to Windsor after escorting a patient to St. Thomas. Information on the accident is sketchy but the police vehicle, driven by Graham, collided with another car on Walker Road at Highway 98.

The second car contained four people from Michigan and everyone except the driver was injured. Officer Graham was thrown from the car and died in hospital. He left behind a wife and two children.

By 1949 the issue of pool hall licences came to a head. A prime example of the problem was found in one Frank Rosky. It was pointed out to the commission that even though Rosky had accumulated seven convictions between 1942 and 1948, he still had a pool hall licence. This finally led the commission to start a policy of not issuing licences after a conviction. Unfortunately, they made this policy only on convictions after October 1st, the previous year.

In March 1949, the commission allowed for the purchase of new radio equipment to replace the obsolete one-way system purchased in the late 1930s. This new two-way system equipped 19 patrol cars and was purchased from General Electric for $14,000. In all, 28 new officers started in 1949, bringing the authorized strength to 170 officers. By this time, the chief was reporting on the progress of the morality division at every meeting.

It was also in 1949 that the association approached the commission about reducing the work week from six days to five. An initial estimated cost of this benefit was $60,000, which covered the addition of 26 men. The commission agreed to the change but the city's board of control approved the addition of just 20 men and the five- day week started July 31. The association was also successful in lowering the time it took an officer to reach first -class constable from five to four years. Also, the budget exceeded a half a million dollars for the first time and was set at $541,000.

The Beginning Of The End

The beginning of the end for Chief Renaud had started years before with the seemingly continuous complaints, from numerous sources, about morality crime. At the start of the year, Windsor was a community of 121,000 people. As far as traffic problems, Windsor was one of the worst areas in which to drive with 3,869 collisions and 18 fatalities.

Pressure from the media brought the commission to a March 9th closed-door meeting about gambling and bootlegging. The pressure came in the form of a six-month sentence for local bootlegger Joe Assef. During the March 8th sentencing, Magistrate J.A. Hanrahan blasted police for permitting Assef's operation to get to the point where he was making 5,400 liquor deliveries in 60 days.

In this meeting, the commission noted complaints and reports in the media about the "administration of justice in general." It was decided to go to the Attorney-General. A few days later, Douglas Bell, Crown Attorney from Chatham, was appointed counsel for the commission with the investigation to start on March 16th.

After three days of testimony and 19 witnesses, including Magistrate Hanrahan, Assef, the chief and deputy, the final report was submitted to the commission in early May. Subsequently, the commission issued a statement on May 4th, which stated in part that "the hearing failed to disclose any specific instance of maladministration by anyone connected with this department." It would go on to say that "additional witnesses, if they existed, did not appear to substantiate the sensational intimations contained in the many reports of the press." In the end, the commission asked for a senior OPP inspector to come to Windsor as an advisor so improvements could be made.

On May 25th, Inspectors W. Lougheed and Frank Kelly were given this assignment. Their inspection lasted throughout the summer. On September 14th, Judge Gordon and Magistrate MacMillan resigned and Crown attorney E. C. Awrey was removed. The report cited most of the problems were related to the morality squad and that police must have known about the gambling which was going on. A new commission was appointed four days later. Its' membership consisted of Judge Archibald Cochrane from Peel, Magistrate Roland Harris of Windsor and Mayor Reaume.

The new commission interviewed the chief and deputy chief on October 2nd. Obviously, morality issues were dealt with but so were Deputy Chief Neale's business relationships. The deputy had an interest in a company which did business with the department. In response, Judge Gordon requested to testify on October 4, he was sworn in. He told the commission he had no knowledge of the deputy's affairs, contrary to Neale's testimony.

Problems and concerns continued and on October 17th, the new commission questioned the release of 12 out of 22 found-ins of a recently raided disorderly house. They also questioned the withdrawal of an impaired driving charge and allegations that accused persons knew their sentences before court. During this same meeting, the resignation of one sergeant was accepted, one officer was disciplined and two fired for theft.

Another Reorganization

By October 25th, the new commission issued a statement recommending the chief and deputy retire on full pension. The commission noted the chief had served to the best of his ability for 36 years. Of the deputy's business dealings, the commission called them "unwise," but nothing more. OPP Staff Inspector Edwin McNeill was made interim chief. In the months which followed, six applicants were interviewed. On January 30th, 1951, Carl Farrow was appointed chief and J.J. Mahoney was made his deputy.

John J. Mahoney had been with the Windsor Police since amalgamation in 1935, coming over from East Windsor where he had started his career as a constable in

1924. He led the "Slasher" investigation as detective inspector. He was liked and respected by everyone who knew him, as was his brother Dennis in Riverside.

This administration focused on training, traffic problems and the control of gambling and other vice crimes . Farrow established the Special Investigations Branch and on July 26th, recommended a fifty- cent- per- day "specialist's pay" to encourage officers to join. In addition, these officers were to receive an extra week of furlough in lieu of overtime. Both requests were granted and the manpower was increased to 15 constables and two sergeants. This was also the year police vehicles were first equipped with sirens.

The budget was set at $783,000 and 26 men were hired on May 30th. There were 215 officers and civilians working out of 14,000 -square feet of space at headquarters. The station was bursting at its seams and the commission started to look for solutions. An early idea was to let the courts have headquarters and renovate the old Mercer School for the police. This idea was later abandoned. Discussions continued through the year, examining options such as adding a third floor to the current building or having a separate courthouse. In the end, the commission started looking for an appropriate location for a new courthouse with an initial budget of $400,000.

The association wanted improvements for its members and wanted to have membership mandatory and to equalize the pay between a married officer and an officer who was single. The starting pay at this time was $2,870. By July, the commission ruled association membership was voluntary and revocable. The association was successful in obtaining service pay in 1952. In 1953, it obtained an increase to three weeks of vacation for members with 15 years seniority if the city passed a similar resolution for its employees.

A three-year traffic plan was started in 1951, which resulted in dramatic manpower increases . This plan was the result of a report by a representative of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. In 1929, the Traffic Branch had 20 men. During the war, this number had dwindled to four officers including the inspector in charge. On July 1st, 1951, the Traffic Branch increased to 26 officers from eight and was responsible for collision investigation around the clock. A new collision report was introduced and it would no longer be the practice to bring drivers to headquarters should a collision result in more than $50 damage or personal injury. The chief went on to recognize the importance of education and thanked the media for their assistance to facilitate this. As a result, collisions dropped from 3,920 in 1951 to 3,051 in 1952. Also in 1951, the adult safety patrol program was started in Windsor.

Training was conducted at the armouries and lasted four weeks. The sergeant major also trained men from the "Frontiersmen" who were working in the parks. In addition, he provided firearms instruction for private security officers at Hiram Walker's. A hiring system consisting of an interview, followed by the "Army

General Classification Test — Civilian Edition" and a physical was started. Potential candidates also attended night school classes on their own time. An applicant would then have to pass a test and wait for a vacancy. The chief proposed in-service-training for detectives on down, and out-of-town training at the RCMP College for investigators.

In March of 1953, the Town of Riverside was in an uproar. Chief Dennis Mahoney was turning 65 and a new section of the Municipal Act stipulated that a municipal employee could be forced to retire at that age if they couldn't carry out their duties. Apparently, the majority of town council thought this was the case and Mahoney was relieved of his duties effective April 1st. He continued to be paid until January 1st the following year, at which time he was given a pension of $100- a- month.

Within weeks, concerned citizens went to council with a petition containing nearly 1,200 signatures. One spokesperson for the group challenged Mayor Ronald Mott, pointing out the town clerk was over 70. In the end, it was clear that the mayor and council were standing by their decision and 42 years of policing for Dennis Mahoney came to an abrupt end. The chief would go on to work in real estate and as a commissionaire, six days a week until just before he died at the age of 76. He was remembered as a compassionate man who tried to help anyone who needed it.

In 1954, the budget exceeded $1 million for the first time and was set at $1,131,000. The traffic plans put into place a few years earlier were bearing good results with collisions declining from a high in 1951 of over 3,900, to just under 2,400. Administration went a step further and funded the production of a traffic safety film, "The Young Die Quickly" at a cost of $11,000. It was produced by a professional film company from Texas. In addition, B. J. S. MacDonald wanted the chief to look into a device called the "Drunkometer." It was later found to be unreliable and was not purchased. A breathalyzer would be purchased in a few years but there was no provision in the Criminal Code for mandatory tests until 1969.

By this time, a new courthouse, police garage and police annex were well underway. Costs associated with these projects, as well as renovations to headquarters, would eventually exceed the $1-million mark. The new court building was opened July 1st, 1955. The traffic division had already been transferred to the annex. The next major improvement to the building was made in 1960 when air conditioning was installed.

Another priority for the new administration was the development of rules and regulations for officers. After working on these for almost four years, the commission passed bylaw 61 on April 18th, 1955, establishing rules and standing orders on everything from who could give information to the media, to use of firearms, to gambling on department property. Every officer would eventually be issued a copy.

It had also been decided the police would be fully mechanized with the addition of "servi-cycle patrols". This innovation came as a result of a suggestion by the mayor. In turn, a similar system of three-wheel patrol on motorcycles with side cars, was examined in Kansas. Impressed by what he saw, the chief instituted a similar plan here. Since uniform officers would be expected to ride these motorcycles, the entire division received training at Windsor Stadium.

This was also the year Elmer The Safety Elephant came to Windsor from Toronto, through the sponsorship of the Sertoma Club, the Safety Patrol Association, both school boards and the police. This endearing figure for children's traffic safety was immediately embraced by the children at St. Angela School. An addition to the program, came in the form of Mr. Beep, the traffic safety car, in the 1960's. Elmer is obviously still with us today, but has been updated with a modern introduction in the form of a music video done to music from "The Men In Black."

Traffic control was still a priority and a request to purchase a $2,000 radar unit was made. This request would eventually be filled in 1962 when the first unit was purchased. The "Windsor Civil Defence - Auxiliary Police" had 126 members who were receiving training in everything from the Highway Traffic Act to foot drills. The practice of going on ride-a-longs with regular officers was started to give these men additional experience.

This was the year the OPP contract for Sandwich West Township ended. On January 1st, 1956, the Sandwich West Police began operations, policing an area which extended from Howard Avenue, west to the city limits. On December 31st, 1958, the Town of LaSalle was amalgamated with Sandwich West, increasing the population to over 26,000. The township had a radio system which would operate in conjunction with its fire department. By 1960, it had a force of 18 officers, a secretary and four patrol cars.

As part of the traffic safety campaign a "traffic court clinic" was started September 24th, 1957, by the police. All 16- and 17-year-olds were required to attend before getting a driver's licence. People appearing in court could also be referred by a magistrate. These clinics would continue twice a week until a change in legislation stopped them in 1969. In the 1969 annual report it was noted that, "We have now lost the personal touch with the youth of our community."

Juvenile delinquency was described as "our most serious social problem." in 1957. The chief went on to say if the problem was not successfully combated, we would face "a serious wave of adult lawlessness." To deal with the problem, the chief proposed a Youth Branch which was later established on August 21st, 1960. This branch consisted of Detective Sergeant John Williamson, three detectives and eight constables. As in years past, youths under the age of 16 were dealt with by youth officers and not police officers. This was also the year the pistol range was moved from the city market to the basement of headquarters.

Another Young Officer Lost

Constable George Smith was the last Windsor officer to be killed while on duty. It happened on a snowy afternoon December 12th 1957. Just before 1:30 p.m. constable Smith along with constable Herbert Bennett and matron Madge Browne were traveling west on Highway #2 just east of Deleware, Ontario. They were escorting a female to St. Thomas Hospital when the police vehicle went out of control.

A transport truck driver going in the other direction could see officer Smith fighting with the wheel but he was unable to regain control. The police car hit the westbound transport truck and spun off into a ditch. Constable Smith would die in hospital almost seven hours later and everyone else would survive although Madge Browne suffered serious head injuries.

George was 32-years-old, and a well-liked officer who was a very accomplished athlete. He had been involved in the Police Athletic League when this tragedy occurred. He left behind a wife and three small daughters who would later receive a small insurance settlement to live on. Immediately the association went into action and soon the first of many police benefit hockey games was organized. Led by Don Stannard, about 4,000 tickets were quickly sold for the January 22nd game. The opponents were the Detroit Police, with members of the Detroit Red Wings being the referees. This became an annual event for many years and was the start of the police benevolent fund.

By 1958 the traffic branch and uniform patrol would be reintegrated into one unit. It was stressed that traffic control and enforcement was for all officers. In eight years collisions were cut by almost 47% and fatalities from 18 in 1950 to just seven in 1958. This trend continued for the next four years with an average of only 2116 collisions and 7.6 fatalities per year.

These impressive statistics moved Windsor from having the worst traffic record to the best in the province. A number of awards were also earned by the citizens of Windsor such as the Safety Award from the Canadian Highway Safety Conference in 1958 and 1959, as well as the National Tea Council Award for the best traffic safety record during Christmas and the Pedestrian Safety Award from the CAA. The program instituted by Chief Farrow relied not only on enforcement but also education and engineering. By 1959, 13 officers had been trained and certified by the province as driving instructors. They then started work in our high schools teaching young people how to drive.

Every Police Family's Nightmare

On June 9th, 1959, the family of Constable Brian Pickup would live the nightmare that haunts every police officer's family. It was about 3 p.m. that day when two

armed men walked into the Bank of Montreal on Wyandotte Street at Chilver. They herded the 15 or so employees in the bank into the vault and tried to lock them in after scooping up over $10,000. On the way to the vault one of the employees tripped the alarm.

Brian, an officer with two years' experience in Windsor and eight in England, was on motorcycle patrol in the area and was the first officer at the scene. Constable Pickup would literally walk into one of the suspects as he emerged from the bank. Both fell to the ground and as they wrestled, he was shot in the back by the second suspect. Just as the second suspect was running away after shooting Brian two other officers, Harold Washbrook and James Rowley, arrived. They started to chase the suspect on foot when he started shooting at them, and they returned fire. After a number of shots had been fired in both directions, the suspect decided to give up saying he'd had enough.

In the meantime Brian was still holding onto the first man and two citizens came to his aide. Brian was rushed to hospital in critical condition and underwent over four hours in surgery. Thankfully he survived and his three small daughters still had a father. He would later receive the highest honour he could, the British Empire medal for gallantry authorized by the Queen herself. One suspect received 19 years in prison the other, 14. Brian returned to active service and has since retired. He has lent his medal to be put on display in the Windsor Police museum.

By 1960, Windsor was a community of just under 120,000 people with four million more next door in Detroit. Vehicles coming into Windsor from the United States stood at just under 5.8 million cars and almost 1,000 trucks, a day. In all it was estimated that 22 million people visited or passed through our community which far exceeded the entire population of Canada. Manpower had grown slowly during the previous decade and stood at 234 officers and 23 civilians. Over 27,500 calls for service would be answered this year.

The three-wheeled motorcycles were ineffective in the winter and they started replacing them with Jeeps. The term "Jeep Beat" is still used today to describe a single officer patrol with the name coming from the "Willy's Jeeps dispatchers," made in Windsor, which were initially purchased during this time. At first, only three of these vehicles were purchased with an aim to eliminate the servi-cars.

On October 10th, 1960, the Metropolitan Store on Ouellette Avenue unexpectedly exploded. In all, 10 people would be killed and about 80 were injured. A number of officers displayed remarkable professionalism and this was noted during the inquest which was held just over a month later.

While a canine patrol wasn't established in Windsor until the mid 1970's, two dogs were being trained for active duty by 1960 in Sandwich West. Both dogs were German Shepherds, Pal and Duke, and were under the control of future Deputy Chief Alec Sommerville.

The following year the first joint police field day shared between the association and administration would be held at Windsor Stadium and later moved to Windsor Raceway. This became an annual event until 1979 when it was discontinued. The start of the cadet program took place in 1961 as well. Five young men from a pool of 80 were hired to start. And the first safety lane came to Windsor, during which 4,500 cars were inspected.

In mid-January, 1963, the commission instructed the chief to examine his department to see if it was over-staffed. As a result, the chief submitted a reorganization to consolidate manpower and eliminate what was seen as "deluxe services" and equalize senior officers' responsibilities. At the same time, the size of the department shrunk to a total of 245 from 256. The "Service Division" was placed under the control of the deputy chief and became what we know as operations today. The chief took over administration functions of budgeting, personnel and planning.

To co-ordinate services, the chief and his staff moved out of headquarters - first to the annex building attached to the garage, then to the municipal courts building. Space in this building became available when the Crown Attorney's office moved out with the opening of the new Essex County Courthouse. The traffic branch was re-instituted and ended up working out of the annex building which was a former Goodyear warehouse.

An idea, which had been proposed for decades finally came to reality when the Ontario Police College in Aylmer opened on January 7th, 1963. This standardized instruction for new police officers across the province.

For the first time, criminal occurrences would top the 10,000 mark and calls for service exceeded 33,000. A total of 11 constables were assigned to traffic control and collisions started a dramatic climb which was accelerated by annexation in two years. By 1966, the new municipality of Windsor experienced 6,559 collisions and an astounding 33 fatalities.

For the Windsor Police, 1965 would be a pivotal year. To start the year, all 42 vehicles currently owned by the department were transferred to the public works division along with the five mechanics and helpers. It was thought the move would be beneficial to both departments. In turn, the police would pay per mile for the vehicles they used.

Just into the new year, two constables resigned from the department. This in itself was not notable, but combined with 18 other resignations in the previous year, it brought concern to the commission. In turn, the commission and association asked the two police chaplains along with a professor from the University of Windsor to look into the matter. The committee was given a brief by the association and the

task of contacting officers who had resigned in the previous six years as well as active officers who wished to be interviewed.

Invitations were sent out to the 34 men who had resigned, but only nine responded. In addition, 42 active members also appeared before the committee. The committee was told the problems were: internal communications, a strict military structure, the evaluation system, interest not being shown by the "top officers" towards the rank and file and an undue emphasis on traffic. Many of the former officers stated they had improved their lives economically and socially by leaving. They said that increasing civilianization, the treatment they received in court and their impression there was little chance for promotion, were additional factors.

In response, then-Deputy Chief Preston, submitted a report which indicated the obvious that collisions were increasing at an alarming rate and that of the 138 officers in patrol, each only averaged 2.3 violations a month. He also pointed out that training on communications had only started two years before and these types of questions were seldom answered correctly, showing a general lack of knowledge in this area. He also felt the relationship between management and the association was generally good. Changes were also made to the promotional policy to address some of the concerns. Before the end of the year, 22 more officers would resign.

On April 28th, 1965, the Ontario Municipal Board announced the amalgamation of Windsor and portions of Sandwich East, Riverside, Ojibway, Sandwich South and Sandwich West. At the stroke of midnight on New Years Eve, Windsor more than tripled in size to over 49 square miles and now had a population of almost 188,000 - 50% more than before. The authorized strength for the department went from 216 officers to 335 and 24 civilians to 36. Restructuring would also take place with a deputy chief being in charged of the new criminal investigation branch, traffic and uniform patrol.

The police went from working out of one station, to three. The Riverside Station was used until March 17th, at which time the newly remodeled Sandwich East town hall opened. The Riverside Station was in the 200 block of Lauzon Road and had been built in 1957, complete with a garage and small range. It is now being used as a day-care centre. The former Sandwich West utilities and town hall building on Huron Church Road became precinct #2.

On May 5th, the much anticipated communications system between police departments also became a reality. Chief Farrow was president of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police at the time, so the first message sent over the province wide "Police Telecommunications System" was from Toronto to Windsor by Premier Robarts.

By 1966, the eligible age to be a constable was lowered to 19 from 21. Shift pay was negotiated for officers working the afternoon and midnight shifts and 62 new officers and 13 cadets were hired. Work started on a new outdoor range on land

donated by Morton Chemical and the Emergency Measures - Auxiliary Police was reactivated. This group had fallen apart in the early 1960's due to a lack of funding.

Money was available to purchase four new portable radios for the officers walking the beat downtown. These officers were still relying on call boxes and it was said Windsor was one of the first departments in Canada to use this new "scientific method of communication." Once again, the traffic branch was reintegrated into uniform patrol and sent out to each station. It was again stressed that traffic control was everyone's responsibility.

In 1967, Canada's centennial year, the Centennial Train visited Windsor from June 16th to 23rd. The duty of the parking meter enforcement was turned over to the traffic engineering department on July 23rd, 1967, and with it went four civilians. This change reduced total authorized strength from 371 to 359.

On this same day the race riots in Detroit broke out. There was great tension on this side of the border which forced the cancellation of the Emancipation Day Celebrations in Windsor. The services of Identification Officer Bill Jackson were loaned to the Detroit Police during this time. With 43 deaths, thousands of injuries and a half a billion dollars in damage, they certainly needed all the help they could get. For his efforts Bill received the "Commissioner's Citation" from the Detroit Police. He was the first non-member of the Detroit Police to earn this honour since its inception about 100 years earlier. This also encouraged the police to update its emergency equipment. The World War One vintage arsenal of long guns was traded in on new firearms and a new weapon - "chemical mace" - was purchased.

The commission authorized a 13,000-square-foot addition to headquarters in 1967. A local architectural firm, J.P. Thompson, designed this $800,000 makeover and expansion. This included a new facade and removal of the original date stone which, unfortunately, wasn't saved. All of the 17 light wells installed to bring natural light into the basement were removed, as were the lanterns or skylights on the roof.

One of the main benefits was that all the services the public would need were under one roof again. Chief Preston went on to say how our central records branch, equipped with sorters and data processing punch cards, was second to none. Space allocated for a computer room was later used as a report writing room. Equally impressive was the addition of electronically controlled doors and video cameras in the cell area which greatly assisted the desk sergeant who was in control of headquarters. The lineup room, traffic branch, stores branch, classroom and lunch room remained in the annex building.

"He's Got A Gun"

A call for a break and enter in progress almost turned deadly for two sergeants in 1968. On April 19th, Sergeants Harold Washbrook and Dennis "Tiny" Phillips,

responded to the call about 10:00 p.m. When they arrived at Morris Heating 1220 Crawford, they arrested 29-year-old William Ott, without incident, as he came out a side door. After backup arrived sergeant Washbrook went inside with another officer to search the building. As soon as Harold got inside the second suspect was spotted holding a gun.

As the words "He's got a gun." were said the suspect opened fire. Harold was hit in the foot as he tried to back out the door. The suspect, Paul Kovach, 29, burst through the door trying to escape. On his way out he fired at the five or so officers who had also responded to the call. Sergeant Phillips was shot in the chest and arm but luckily the bullet which hit his chest, glanced off a rib.

In defense the officers returned fire and Kovach was shot in the shoulder and lower torso. He would survive his wounds only to be sentenced to eight and a half years in prison with Ott getting four. Both officers would return to active duty and later retired from policing.

Murder In The County

Saturday August 23rd, 1969, proven to be one of the darkest days in the history of local law enforcement. One LaSalle police officer would be killed. A second LaSalle officer and a Windsor officer were wounded. They had responded to a call for help which began as a domestic dispute between William Rosik and his wife in their Sprucewood Avenue home. When officer Robert Carrick arrived, Mrs. Rosik came out with the couple's four-year-old child.

Gunshots then started hitting the cruiser as Carrick hid behind it with Mrs. Rosik and the child. Officer Carrick was able to crawl into his cruiser and call for help while bullets kept hitting the car. Within a couple of minutes, help started arriving. First was Windsor officer Bill Arbing. He to was immediately under fire but was able to scramble out of the passengers side of his car. Officer Al Oakley was next to arrive on his motorcycle. He took cover behind Arbing's cruiser. The officers started to return fire but were pinned down as Rosik fired from an upstairs window.

At this point Carrick, was shot in the head while he was at the rear of his car. As he tried to crawl to cover he was shot again and killed. As LaSalle officer Robert Ross arrived, he was shot in the hand as he ran towards the Windsor cruiser. All three officers took turns returning fire as bullets rained down on them. Officer Oakley ran towards a ditch and was shot. Rosik continued shooting him where he lay until a civilian pulled his truck between the officer and the house and drove him to safety.

Officer Ross was then shot again, this time in the face. Shotgun pellets eventually caused him to loose an eye. Officer Arbing was able to get Ross onto the floor of his car while Rosik continued to pepper the cruiser with shotgun fire. Arbing crawled into the front seat area and, with his hand, pressed the accelerator and drove

backwards down the street and out of the line of fire. By this time, other officers and ambulances started to arrive. Ross was the first to go to the hospital by ambulance. While Arbing put Oakley in a cruiser and drove him to the hospital himself.

As quickly as it started, the terror stopped. As officers with more firepower arrived, Rosik gave up and walked out of the house. He was a former Windsor Police auxiliary officer and lived only a few doors away from officer Carrick. He would be found guilty of capital murder on June 20th, 1970. Jury deliberations took all of one hour and 45 minutes. He was then sentenced to hang February 23rd, 1971. But, with the clock ticking down on his life, Rosik was spared and his sentence was commuted to life on February 4th.

At the time, one of Rosik's lawyers, Gerry Tuck, was quoted saying his client was "just incredibly relieved, more than joy, just incredible relief." Ten year to the day of his crime, Rosik was released from custody on mandatory supervision. He then moved to British Columbia and changed his name to William Jamieson.

Officer Oakley was shot in the chest, neck, abdomen, both arms and right leg. He survived his injuries and returned to work and is now retired. Officer Ross had just rejoined the LaSalle Police just before the shooting. After the loss of his eye, he returned to policing for about six months but then left to take another position with the town. Robert Carrick, 22, had planned to leave policing August 27 – just four days before he was slain – to purse interests such as scuba diving.

The 1969 annual inspection was the first public appearance for the Windsor Police Pipe Band. The band started forming in 1967 with the blessing of Chief Preston. In honour of him they adopted the Gordon tartan for their kilts. Over the years, the band has performed overseas and all over North America, winning many awards. The band is now self-sufficient, paying for their own $2,000 uniforms. The late 1960's also saw the return of a police clown troop. This group of officers, and civilians, brought joy to many children over the years, in hospitals or where-ever they could.

Regionalization of police services started in 1970 with the newly formed Niagara Regional Police and the York Regional Police. In his report, Chief Preston was of the opinion that in the future, Essex County would need to give this serious consideration as well.

The federal government recognized the need for a national computer system and a committee was struck to set up CPIC, or the Canadian Police Information Computer. This system went on line in 1974. (Major revisions were authorized this year to keep up to current technology.) For the first time, four officers from the Special Investigation Division would be assigned to work on drug cases with the RCMP. The expansion expected in the west Windsor area never materialized and precinct #2 was closed for good.

A brutal murder and a bank robbery captured the headlines in 1971. This was a bad year all around with violent crime going up 11.7% with crime increasing 16.2% overall.

"This Case Will Never Be Closed"

"*This case will never be closed until it is brought to a satisfactory conclusion.*"

These words are true for every unsolved homicide. But they were never more true than when they were spoken by Chief Preston about the murder of 6-year-old Ljubica Topic. This case has haunted former and current members of the Windsor Police for almost 30 years. It was about dusk May 14th, 1971, when Ljubica was on Drouillard Road with her 8-year-old brother. They were approached by a young man who offered them money, saying he had a job for Ljubica. Her brother was given 10 cents to go away.

The man was last seen walking down the street with the little girl. This would be the last time she would been seen alive. When her brother got home, he told his mother what had happened and immediately a massive search began. The search ended about 11:30 p.m. when her body was found in a backyard off an alley about six blocks away.

This beautiful innocent girl had been viciously beaten and sexually assaulted. A composite drawing of the suspect was done and police were busy for weeks tracking down information. In all, $11,000 in rewards were offered. Some of this money -- $2,000 – came from the Secret Witness Fund of the Detroit News. This was the first time money from this fund was offered for a crime committed in Canada. Over the next 28 years, tips were periodically called in but no one was ever charged.

With the advent of DNA profiling, this case is once again being actively investigated.

The Biggest Bank Robbery In Canada

When an estimated $1.1 million was taken from the Royal Bank on Ouellette Avenue, Saturday, December 18th, 1971, it was the largest bank robbery in Canadian history. The bank was closed, but 13 employees were busy counting money brought in from the Windsor Raceway. While four people were later convicted in connection with the crime, most of the money is still missing.

It still isn't known how the suspects got into the bank or how they knew the money would be there, but this heist was obviously well-planned. The suspects were able to enter the counting room and surprise the bank employees who were then handcuffed together and locked in a bathroom. While the money was being gathered up, the manager showed up unexpectedly and he was handcuffed to the counting cage. The suspects and the money then vanished.

The five suspects had already come to the attention of the Toronto Police who knew they were up to something, but just didn't know what. After the robbery they were again put under surveillance and an undercover officer was able to put his initials inside a steamer trunk one of the group bought. The police later raided a room at a Holiday Inn in Etobicoke and recovered from the trunk and a duffel bag what they initially thought was all the money. Upon counting the money, they had recovered just under $150,000.

The suspects were later offered a lighter sentence upon the return of the money but this offer was declined. The sentences ranged from 15 to 20 years with one man receiving a fine of $75,000 or an additional five years. After the case was concluded special prosecutor Bruce Affleck said he found the Windsor Police "to be among the most efficient and competent of any with whom I have dealt." He went on to say that, "Your men have earned the Windsor Police Department an enviable reputation for law enforcement."

"Shots Fired, Officer Down"

Unfortunately these words were said too many times in the next two years. The first time was Thursday, April 20th, 1972, when Detective Sergeant Gerry Lavergne was shot during an armed robbery. In the 1970's, autoworkers were paid on Thursdays. It was customary for many of them to go to places like the Europe Tavern on Drouillard Road, to cash their cheques. It was this well-known fact which led to a robbery of the Europe a few months earlier, on February 3rd, also a Thursday night.

This time the detectives were waiting, having arrived at the bar about an hour before the robbery. Just before the afternoon shift arrived, a masked gunman walked in and demanded the money. The bartender hit the ground and shots started flying. One bullet hit a wall about head high --- inches from where the detectives were. The suspect fled out the front door with the officers in hot pursuit. More shots were exchanged outside at which time Lavergne was shot in his left thigh. The shot went through the front of his leg and out the back without causing serious damage.

The suspect had been shot in the groin and arm but still managed to escape. An accomplice drove him to Metropolitan Hospital where he was arrested a short time later. The gun believed to have been used in the robbery was found about an hour later by two nine-year-old boys. It had been discarded a few blocks from the hospital in the area of Hugh Beaton School. Thinking it was a toy, one of the boys picked it up and thankfully was pointing it at the ground when he pulled the trigger. Gary Goebel plead guilty two weeks later and received a four-year prison term.

The next officer to be shot in the line of duty was Constable Paul Seguin. Paul was working in uniform on October 23rd, 1973, when he and his partner, Keith Bondy, were sent to a house at 395 Janette Avenue to assist the RCMP in a drug raid. They

entered the home after 4:00 p.m. not knowing who would be inside, which is often the case in a raid. A total of five people were found in the residence including two escaped convicts, Larry and Frank Walters. Frank, who was not related to Larry, pretended to get sick.

At the same time, Larry took out a .357 magnum and pointed it at Paul's head. Keith grabbed the barrel of the gun to protect his partner when the gun went off, striking Paul in the right thigh. Once the suspects were taken into custody, Paul could feel some liquid in his shoe which turned out to be his blood. Up to this point he didn't know he had been shot. Luckily, the bullet had hit a set of keys which he usually carried in his other pocket. But had switched them just before the shooting.

The bullet shattered one key sending shrapnel into his leg. The bullet stopped just a half inch from severing his femoral artery, which would have been fatal. Paul was off work for six months before returning to active duty. In the next year he was stabbed twice in the line of duty. Being one of the first officers to wear a protective vest probably saved his life.

Within three weeks, two more officers would be shot. On Friday, November 9th, a cab driver picked up a fare at the Welcome Traveller's Motel. The fare was 21-year-old Daniel Horvath who was a suspect in a recent armed robbery. Horvath had a shotgun concealed in a bag which he said contained toys. The cab driver was directed to a secluded area in the county where he was robbed at gun point and ordered to the ground. The driver thought he was going to die but instead, he was clubbed with the barrel of the gun and survived. Horvath took the cab and headed back to Windsor.

The cab driver was able to find help and the OPP were notified. A short time later, Constables Bill Pheby and Bill Glen were on patrol in the Remington Park area when they spotted the cab. A high-speed chase ensued at speeds of up to 70 miles per hour. Suddenly, Horvath pulled into the driveway at 640 Edinborough and bailed out of the cab, carrying the shotgun. Both officers got out of their vehicle and Pheby was shot immediately, with pellets hitting his left arm and face. The force of the blast knocked his gun from his hand. Horvath ran behind the house with Bill Glen in pursuit. More shots followed and officer Glen was shot at close range in the abdomen. In turn, Horvath was shot once in the head and died instantly.

Both officers survived their injuries and returned to work. Bill Glen would later retire from police work still with about 100 shotgun pellets in his body. Unfortunately, Bill Pheby passed away before being able to retire.

Two more officers were shot at in 1973, but neither was hit. Many other life-threatening incidents have been encountered by officers from the Windsor Police both before and since, but thankfully no one else has had to pay the ultimate price while serving their community.

The community services branch was formed in 1974, and the first community services officer was then-Inspector John Hughes. He would ultimately be responsible for crime prevention, developing the police civilian awards, police week and media relations. By this time motor vehicle collisions hit an all time high of 9,274, with 24 fatalities. Staffing had climbed to 371 officers and 46 civilians. The next year, the first police dog, Stoney, was employed by the Windsor Police. A canine patrol would become a full-time position by 1977, and this unit expanded in a few years to three dogs and three handlers.

Police communications took another huge step in 1975. On Sunday, September 7th, a new $375,000 communications centre would go on line replacing a system which relied on small pieces of paper passed through a window from the main office to a dispatcher. The system included new portable radios, complete with six channels and worth $1,300 each, a lit panel showing each unit and if they were in service or not, plus a 20-channel tape deck to record all calls. There were 22 officers handling these duties, including two dispatchers, with a new emergency number 258-6111. A quote from The Windsor Star summed it up best: "It is difficult to believe police were able to co-ordinate their activities as well as they have with what they had to work with."

The three-decade absence of a police presence on the Detroit River was filled in 1976. In the spring, the police took ownership of a 1959 Chris Craft which had been used sporadically up to this point by the fire department. Regular patrols started June 6th, and the boat received the affectionate name of "Babe the Blue Ox" because of its colour and lack of speed. By 1979, a new 24 foot Sea Ray took over for "Babe" but vandals set fire to it, destroying the pride of the marine patrol. The boat was replaced before the end of the year and patrols resumed. By 1989, the police had become partners with the Windsor Harbour Commission and jointly we purchased a 32 foot custom-made vessel. A contest was held in local schools and the name "Guardian" was chosen for our new boat, which is still in service today.

By 1976, it was again apparent that headquarters was too small so preliminary drawings were completed by J.P. Thompson. Several other options were examined, as well renovating the vacant Steinberg's building. Estimated cost: Just over $5 million . The land to the south of headquarters, the old Dan Kane car dealership lot, would eventually be purchased and the existing building expanded once again.

Calls for service exceeded 81,000 in 1977 and the city had its worst year for homicides on record. In all, 14 people were killed. But every case was cleared. The first emergency services tactical unit was formed in 1977. In the 22-year history of this unit, they have never used lethal force.

Another new police building was started in 1978 with the purchase of land in the 2600 block of Jefferson. The second precinct at Tecumseh and Annie Street was torn down once the new station opened December 9th, 1980. This was the first building in Windsor designed for police use only. The building, which featured a

new indoor range, was also designed by J.P. Thompson and has about 13,000 square feet.

Since the outdoor range at Morton Chemicals closed, the police had been able to use an indoor facility, beginning June 12th, 1972, in the basement of the old Transit Windsor building on Kildare Road. A range had been installed there during the Second World War because it was the site of a firearms factory. The building was sold to General Motors and the construction of a new outdoor range was started in the late 1970's. This facility opened in 1979 and was located in the former east end landfill site.

The addition to headquarters was complete in 1978 and no longer would line-ups be held in the old police garage. This would be the year the Windsor Police would purchase a new device called an Alcohol Level Evaluation Roadside Testers (ALERT) unit. It was portable and provided an officer with a range for a person's blood-alcohol level. This machine indicates a pass, warn or fail. In a few years, registering a warn or fail would allow an officer to immediately suspend a person's driver's licence for 12 hours.

Usable space at headquarters had increased to about 43,000 square feet and provided officers with a workout facility, complete with a universal machine. An additional $100,000 was spent on furniture for two new classrooms and a lunchroom. Through these years, the importance of physical fitness was stressed. In 1985, the Physical Fitness Committee was instituted. A clause in the contract made annual fitness tests mandatory until constables reached first class. It was thought that if officers stayed fit for the first four years of their careers, this would continue after the testing was no longer required.

Operation Identification and Crime Prevention

A federal grant in the spring of 1979 launched Operation Identification and Operation Provident. Both programs were well-received by the public and involved a group of students going door to door marking valuables with an engraver. This made it easier for police to track stolen property. Operation Identification was for residential areas and Operation Provident was for businesses and industry.

Initially, the programs targeted higher crime areas but its success prompted an extension of the grants and both were in operation until the entire city had been canvassed. This couldn't have come at a better time, with reported criminal offences hitting 26,254. This would be just short of the all-time high of 26,502, set just two years later.

This program was eventually taken over by the Windsor Citizens Crime Prevention Committee. This committee also assumed responsibility for programs such as Block Parents and Neighbourhood Watch. Both were launched in 1984. The Fountainbleu

area was the first area in Windsor to be served by Neighbourhood Watch. The Windsor Citizens Crime Prevention Committee will operate out of the community services branch in the new headquarters building.

The underwater rescue and recovery team was established in 1980. On September 11th of this year, Jacques Cousteau and his world famous research vessel "Calypso" visited Windsor. The river front was also busy because of the U.S. Republican Party Convention was held in Detroit. Festivities were planned for both sides of the border and security paralleled, and sometimes exceeded, anything Windsor had ever experienced ---- even during Royal visits.

By 1981, civilianization was in full swing. The authorized strength for officers dropped from 376 in 1977, to 350 by 1985. Conversely, the civilian ranks went from 49 to 77 during this period. Many of these positions were in the new communications centre which had been staffed exclusively by police officers since it opened in 1975. On September 7th, 1982, the 9-1-1 system went live for Windsor, Tecumseh and St. Clair Beach.

Very Important Programs

The year 1985 was significant for many reasons. The arson squad was formed. It matched a detective with an investigator from the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office. This was also the year the Telephone Reporting Unit began operations and the need for peer counselling was recognized. A number of peer counsellors were identified after being nominated by fellow workers. These counsellors were trained by Dr. Bill McDermott who has always been on hand to provide support and direction for police personnel.

Crime Stoppers of Windsor and Essex County was started April 15th, 1985. The first officer in charge of this program was Bill Stephens and the first chairman was Mr. Bob Pedler. Since its inception, Crime Stoppers has received tips on every conceivable type of crime. From a modest beginning until the end of September 1999, 58,547 tips have resulted 3,106 arrests, 5,101 cleared cases, almost $5 million in recovered property and drug seizures worth nearly $6 million. All of this has been made possible by the hard work of the Crime Stoppers' Board, and by volunteers, who have raised $443,775 for rewards.

Another great community service program was started in 1985. The acronym V.I.P. stands for values influences and peers. For the thousands of young people who have had the program it has meant much more. The idea for V.I.P. started after a 1983 visit to a Sarnia Township school by members of our community services branch. In 1985, the first V.I.P. class was taught at Benson School. From the start, the value of having officers in a classroom was apparent. The 1985 annual report described it as a "new and exciting and rewarding project." The officers targeted grade 6 pupils with the hope of making a difference in their lives before any could start down the

wrong path. While many communities have officers in schools, the Windsor model was chosen to be featured at the Canadian Chiefs of Police convention in 1998.

Officers involved in the program do much of the work on their own time, receiving nothing but satisfaction in return. From one school in 1985, it spread quickly. By 1999, all 63 public and separate schools were covered. In addition, this program has been expanded to two secondary schools. Called V.I.P. II, this program is being taught to grade 9 students to reinforce the lessons of two years earlier. The goal is to remind them to think for themselves and make the right decisions during the sometimes very difficult high school years.

While it is hard to connect dropping crime rates with these types of programs, there is a clear difference between students who have had V.I.P. than those who have not. A 1996 study conducted, by University of Windsor student Frank McShane, found that, "compared to non-V.I.P. respondents, V.I.P. respondents' attitudes toward police were significantly more positive."

A pilot project was started in 1987 to help crime victims. This project involved a co-operative effort with the University of Windsor and was called "Victim Referral." In May of 1988, the "Victims of Crime Unit" was permanently added. By 1994, the needs of victims were met on a 24-hour basis. By 1995, the Victim Services Branch was expanded to serve all of Essex County.

In 1987, the budget exceeded $20 million for the first time. The authorized strength of officer showed an increase, by four, for the first time in 10 years. By 1988, an automated records system was approved. A Unisys computer system was purchased and went fully on line July 1st, 1990. In the 1988 annual report, Chief Jim Adkin noted a computer-aided dispatch system would be next, followed by mobile data terminals. Both would become reality, although it would take until March 29th, 1999, for mobile data terminals in police cars to go into service. Computer-aided dispatching went on line May 7th, 1991. The original Unisys computer was replaced this year with a new Versaterm system.

Community Policing Returns

In 1988, community policing returned to the Windsor Police. Only this time it was through desire and not necessity. Police and Community Together (P.A.C.T.) opened and office in a Windsor Housing Authority unit at 574 St. Joseph Street, with three officers assigned to it. As in community policing of the 1920's, officers patrolled on foot, bicycle and by car. The program was needed and well-received by the neighbourhood.

By May 6th, 1990, the concept went forward and a police station was established in a historical house at 351 Mill Street. This was the first police facility in the Sandwich area since the Sandwich Police Station closed in 1935. The new station was home to

22 officers and would be called the Sandwich Towne Community Patrol. These officers are responsible for an area with over 22,600 people, plus the out-of-town students who attend the University of Windsor each year.

Officers Mike MacKenzie and Dave Doidge saw a need for a safe place for the young people in this area to go after school. So the Sandwich Teen Action Group (S.T.A.G.) found a home in the former St. Edward School off of Prince Road in 1991. The centre opened in 1992, providing a good environment for the young people from Sandwich Towne to interact with officers, study, or enjoy some recreation. This centre has been an intricate part of this community ever since thanks to the efforts of Mike and Dave and the community partners who have supported them over the years.

The second community police office opened in a storefront at 9917 Tecumseh Road East near Forest Glade Drive on June 28th, 1992. This station was called the East End Community Patrol station and had an initial compliment of 30 officers. Budget constraints due to the "social contract" reduced the compliment of officers to 24 the next year. A coalition of service clubs called "The Friends of the East End Community Patrol." Donated over $60,000 to help outfit this station. With the generous support of the community this station was able to remain open until January, 1996. Again budget restraints, would cause the remaining officers to be relocated to the Jefferson Street station, which was renamed the East End Community Patrol.

In 1989, a full-time civilian director of "Planning and Research" was appointed. This new director, Barry Horrobin, quickly learned first hand the space limitations at headquarters. His office was constructed in the original stairwell from the first to the second floor. Another example of the constraints became apparent in April of 1992, when two construction trailers were hoisted up and installed on top of headquarters. They provided a new home for the communications centre.

"Dusty's Day"

Paul Rhoads, also known as Dusty, was a member of the Windsor Police Service since 1966. Unfortunately his life would be cut short by cancer on June 6th, 1989. His life-long friend, retired Detective Don Wiley, promised him he would raise $10,000 in his memory.

Don decided to hold a golf tournament for his friend and the first "Dusty's Day" was held September 27th, 1989, on what would have been Paul's 43rd birthday. In all, $14,000 was raised and donated to the Hospice of Windsor which had done so much for Paul when he was ill. A few months later, former Chief Hughes passed away after enjoying only eight months of retirement. He had been an officer for 39 years.

On December 31st, 1990, a new Police Services Act became law. Part of this new legislation mandated a Public Complaints Commissioner and led to the formation of the professional standards branch. Change also came in the form of Bill 187 which mandated the police to provide court security and prisoner escorts. As a result of the obligations under the new act, 17 more officers and five new special constables would be hired.

In 1991, a new command bus was bought and paid for in large part by a $65,000 federal grant. By 1992, calls for service exceeded 100,000 and, with the new computer-aided dispatch, it was found that communications personnel answered more than 350,000 calls per year. A new vehicle was purchased for the explosives disposal unit in 1992 --- paid for by the Lauzon Knights of Columbus council.

The Windsor and Detroit police services co-hosted the 1992 International Association of Chiefs of Police convention. This would be the year a study on the possible effects of casino gambling was commissioned and oleo capsicum resin, or pepper spray, was added to the police arsenal.

A budget of just over $37 million dollars was set for 1993 but that wouldn't last long. This would be the first year of the "Social Contract," which would force the police to cut $971,000 in this first year and $1.2 million by the third year. In a combined effort, the savings were found by the administration and association, which meant sacrifices and no pay increases, but prevented layoffs.

Casino Gambling Comes Back

In 1994, there were more significant changes. A call went out for expressions of interest in building a new headquarters and Windsor became the site of Ontario's first legalized gaming venue. The interim casino occupied the Art Gallery of Windsor building which, years earlier, had been the British American Brewery. With large crowds the doors to Casino Windsor opened May 17th.

Even with approximately 20,000 people a day added to downtown Windsor, fears of increasing crime never materialized. The police service received funding from the Ontario Casino Corporation for 25 additional officers to patrol the area around the new casino, pushing the authorized strength of officers over 400. A second gaming venue would open December 13th, 1995, in the form of the Northern Belle riverboat which was docked at the foot of Glengarry Avenue. Both locations closed just before the opening of the permanent casino on July 29th, 1998. On December 17th, 1998, slot machines were introduced at Windsor Raceway.

Chief Adkin announced his retirement in 1994 and a search for a successor was open to candidates across Canada. For the third time in our history, a police officer from an outside police service was sworn in as chief. On December 22nd, 1994, John Kousik - formerly of the Montreal Urban Police - assumed control. Eight senior

officers retired within a year beginning a restructuring process which saw a strength reduction in senior administration. As suddenly as he appeared, John Kousik announced his retirement in January of 1999 - before the end of his five-year contract. Another search resulted in the appointment of Glenn Stannard on June 1st.

The murder of a police officer in Northern Ontario would lead to the acquisition of better firearms for police officers across the province. In Windsor, the weapon chosen was the Smith and Wesson .40-calibre pistol. These weapons were issued starting in 1995, after a week-long training course and qualification. More advancements followed, with the $100,000 Automated Fingerprint Identification System (A.F.I.S.), in November of 1996. This allows unknown fingerprints to be checked electronically in minutes, against all of the prints on file in Canada.

A new Motorola 14-channel corporation radio system was installed in 1996, along with an enhanced 9-1-1 system allowing dispatchers to trace calls without contacting Bell Canada. The police garage and annex was demolished in 1996 and the official announcement for the construction of the new Windsor Justice Facility was made in June.

The Windsor Police went into cyberspace in 1997 with the introduction of our internet site. The demolition of General Brock School in 1997 paved the way for the new Sandwich Towne Community Patrol facility. Also in 1997 officers on general patrol started a compressed workweek while the population in Windsor would top 200,000.

In 1998, reported criminal offences would dip just under 20,000 for the first time since 1970. And the budget request for 1999 exceeded $40 million. Many new challenges are ahead including the implementation of a new set of standards for police agencies across the province. At the close of the twentieth century, the city of Windsor is continuing to experience the downward trend in crime started six years ago, with a further 13% drop in crime so far this year.

The Windsor Police are proud that along with Alton Parker, retired detective Frank Chauvin was also honoured with the Order of Canada. Frank is the driving force behind a mission in Combermere, Ontario, as well as an orphanage in Haiti. Besides his missionary work, he has been appointed as a citizenship court judge. These men exemplify the commitment that many officers, over the years, have displayed.

This booklet has been produced to commemorate the opening of Police Headquarters, which is a significant event in our community. Time and space has made it impossible to mention everyone and everything in our history. There are many more interesting facts and stories from our past which need to be preserved.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

George Santayana